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Democratic party visits
NECC recruiting national
convention volunteers



11 Arts

College plays host to
'Scantly Clad' cabaret
performance

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NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NECC Observer

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.



courtesy photo

Solving the mystery— Clockwise from top left: Emily Mooers, Cory Cocchiaro and Allan Mayo, Ozan Haksever and Christine Foley practice for their upcoming performance of Agatha Christie's 1952 murder mystery "The Mousetrap," which opens on March 26 in the Top Notch Theater.

Scholarship controversy

*College deals with
lack of scholarship
applicants*

BY DAVID WILLIS
Editor

Due to concerns about too few students applying, NECC has made a number of changes to its scholarship program, according to President David Hartleb.

"The major problem before was getting information out to students so they could apply," Hartleb said.

Hartleb explained that in the past few years, while all NECC's scholarships have been given out, the college has had problems getting students to apply for scholarships.

One of the reasons for the lack of students was the application system was extremely confusing, he said.

NECC vice president of institutional advancement Jean Poth said to make the system simpler, the college has developed an application form that makes a student eligible for all possible scholarships.

Parts of this move, however, concerned Professor Priscilla Bellairs, chairperson of the Student Affairs Committee, which has discussed the

scholarship application issue.

In the past, there was a different application for almost all of the 22 "restricted scholarships," or those named for major donors who set restrictions on who should receive the award, Poth said.

Under the new system, once the application is filled out, Poth's office will select the best applicants for each award and send them to the review committees.

Poth said she felt the simpler applications will attract students, although, in contrast to Hartleb, she didn't feel there had been much of a problem.

While Bellairs said the change to one application form is mostly good, she expressed concern that the new application process takes power away from the faculty and selection committees.

She explained most of the restricted scholarships have selection committees made up mainly of faculty members who have the job of selecting the recipient of the award.

But with Poth's office now selecting the "best" nominees for the scholarship, the pool of applicants will be much smaller for the committee and possible recipients will be

See Scholarships, page 6

NECC baseball, better than most know

BY JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

When most people hear of community college baseball, they have an assumption of it being nothing more than a small step up from the high school ranks.

But this is an assumption that couldn't be further from the truth at Northern Essex.

Right here, NECC has one of the best local baseball programs. Not just on the junior college ranks, but in all of local college baseball, attracting Major League scouts and beating a highly ranked NCAA Division 2 team.

Here, players can work on their game while getting a chance proving themselves worthy of a scholarship when they move on to a four-year college.

Not only do four-year universities scout players, but also Major League scouts contact the coaches every year.

So far this season, scouts from the Red Sox, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox, Pittsburgh Pirates and Anaheim Angels have already touched base with the NECC coaches.

"They heard the rumors we should be a strong team and our pitching is up there," said Northern Essex baseball head coach Kerry

Quinlan. "We have four or five kids that can really bring it."

NECC has four of the top pitchers in the state.

"The only one of significant numbers that we didn't get went pro (to the Florida Marlins)," said McDonald. "All of the other major pitchers in this area are here."

When you hear about NECC winning the state title last season, some still may be thinking the competition wasn't major. Quinlan and McDonald both point out the division is full of good programs that are a tough test. But they also get tested elsewhere.

The team has looked impressive against their share of four-year

schools in the area.

"We were playing UMass Lowell, a big Division 2 NCAA team," said McDonald. "We played them in the fall and they didn't leave the stadium very happy."

NECC beat UMass Lowell, ranked 3rd in the country, by a score of 23-1. More proof community college baseball programs are no joke.

This year on the annual spring training trip to Florida, the team will be facing some big competition in preparation for the regular season.

The biggest will be the Canadian National team, a team which has



Dustin Gray photo

See Baseball, page 17

NECC pitcher Ryan Mooradian

Opinion

A wakeup call for some of NECC

Editorial

There were two major signs in this week's news that indicated parts of the administration might not be as in touch with the state of Northern Essex as they might think.

The element that seems to be lost upon the administration is that when classes let out, most NECC students are on their way home.

Northern Essex is a commuter college, so obviously, no one lives on campus. This means a student needs to travel to get to a comfortable place, their home.

When a student lives on campus, he or she is always in the school state of mind. But when a student commutes to school, they are thinking about heading home once the day is over.

This element of life is why few NECC students take part in extracurricular activities. They don't want to hang around the school once class is over. Not to mention they don't have a nice cozy dorm to relax in between class and activity time.

To make activities even more difficult for NECC students, a plan was recently proposed that would change the student activity time from 12-1 p.m. on Monday and Friday to a later time in the day, possibly 3-5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Now, anyone who goes to Northern Essex knows this is just a terrible idea.

If the activity hour were to be

changed, club meetings and college events such as Winterfest would have to be held at 3 p.m. earliest.

Guess what, no one is going to stay at NECC until 3 p.m. just to see Winterfest, and very few are going to stay around to go to a club meeting.

Take it from a group that meets multiple times a week (the Observer staff). It's hard enough to meet at noontime.

Oh yeah, then there is the fact most NECC students work, unlike most students who live at school. There are better odds a working student is free at noon than at 3 p.m.

Another error by the administration is assuming news like scholarship applications will travel by word-of-mouth.

NECC Mary Ellen Ashley, senior vice president of enrollment management and student services, said the college relied on word-of-mouth from teachers and other students to get information out to students.

This is also a bad idea because students don't hang around school and talk about scholarships.

Once again, class is over, students go home. If they see each other after school it is because they are friends and are going to hang out. For the most part, things like scholarships don't come up during a party.

The college needs to do more to get scholarship information and information about other college necessities to help students.

Post a sign on the bulletin board, send letters or e-mails to everyone.

Something, ANYTHING!



KRT

Roaming Reporter

What do you think about President Bush using 9/11 in his campaign ads?



Amber Kernick, Graphic Design
"I think it's ridiculous. Other people played a huge role. It's not fair that he said he did all of it when he was barely there."

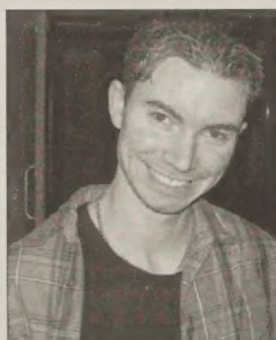


Dave Vey, Journalism
"My expert opinion is that I think it will be detrimental to the other candidates' success if people associate President Bush with NYC salvation post 9/11."

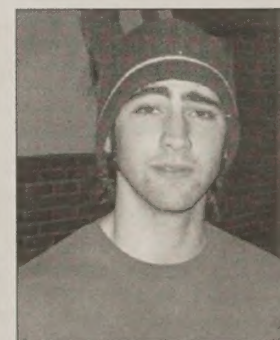


Charles Black, Computer Programming
"I take it as brainwashing. I close my eyes to it. I don't pay attention to the news. It doesn't have much of an effect on me."

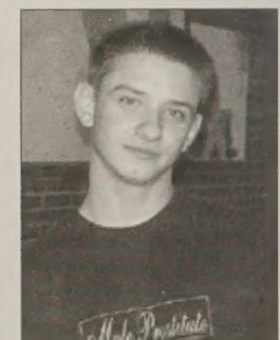
Interviews by Lauren E. Carroll / Photos by Derek Bedard



Josh Issa, Networking
"Nothing he hasn't done in the past. He manipulates the public to his own devices. He's been doing it for the past four years."



Jeff O'Brien, CIS Aps & Ops
"Doesn't matter to me either way. I don't care. I hate both of them. They're just trying to out do each other."



Chris Corbett, Radiology
"Bush is very corrupt. I think he knew about 9/11 before it happened. He's using Saddam as a scapegoat to go over there and secure oil. He put troops over there so people could get gas more easily."

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Opinion

Cartoons that cause controversy and make audiences laugh

For those sick of the endless reality shows, animated shows offer a new kind of humor

By KELLY FITZGERALD
Opinion Editor



In a society where television is over run by reality shows and played out sitcoms, there is not much worth watching. Many people have short attention spans and if something doesn't deliver within the first few minutes, the channel is usually flipped.

So where are we supposed to go for a good laugh? Cartoons, or animated shows are usually looked upon in disgust by adults. Many adults refuse to watch anything animated because they think cartoons are just for children. Yet many shows like "The Simpsons," "Family Guy," "Southpark" and Cartoon Network's Adult Swim are aimed at the older audiences.

The Cartoon Network usually brings us 24-hours of non-stop cartoons for children, but after 11 pm they put the kiddies to bed and open the door to some of the funniest, most twisted animated shows on television.

Each show even comes with a warning it might not be suitable for viewers under fourteen.

With shows like "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," about a box of fries, a

milkshake and a wad of meat all living together in a house in New Jersey, it's easy to see where the twisted meets the funny.

It might look like a cute show from Saturday morning, but after about five minutes in, it's easy to realize this isn't quite "Scooby Doo."

While Frylock, the box of fries spends his time inventing things, the other two, the shake and the meat wad spend their time watching television or fighting with each other.

Not since "Beavis and Butthead" have two characters showed us how little can be done in life.

"Family Guy," which was cancelled by Fox, now has a home and a pretty big following on the Cartoon Network. The DVDs of the show's first season sold one million copies, making it the top-selling television show of last year. It is now rumored 20th Century Fox may revive "Family Guy" and bring it back with 35 new episodes as soon as Jan. 2005, this according to USA Today.

"Family Guy" follows the Griffin

family through their 'normal' everyday life. This normal family is two parents, two teenagers, a baby, the family dog and the evil monkey which lives in the closet.

The dog also talks and drinks a little too much and the baby has a dream of taking over the world after he finishes his nap and bottle.

The humor is, "Family Guy" is not for the conservative viewer. The jokes could be considered racist and even controversial. According to E! Online, "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane's former high school headmaster was so distraught by the show's politically incorrect and offen-

sive jokes he began a crusade against it.

If people today can't laugh at themselves, then society as a whole will just become as boring and pointless as one of Fox's new reality shows.

Though Fox does carry "The

Simpsons," the show's writers make fun of it on a regular basis.

While many sitcoms come and go each week and reality shows crash and burn, shows like extremely politically incorrect "Southpark" are now in it's eighth season.

Likewise, the "Simpsons" is in its fifteenth season and is the longest running sitcom to date. Unlike many shows that sometimes go past their prime "The Simpsons" still comes back every year fresh and funny. Reality shows are a fad that just won't die and sitcoms haven't been good since controversial shows like "Married With Children" owned the airwaves. It just proves controversy keeps things going.



LETTERS

Thanks and correction

The following letter was sent to Observer Features Editor Lauren Carroll by Caryl Taylor, a longtime NECC employee recently featured in an Observer profile written by Lauren Carroll.

Dear Lauren,

It was so much fun having lunch with you. Thank you for writing the lovely article. Everything was accurate with one exception.

In the fourth paragraph, where I participated in the talent show, it was with Carol Wallace and Paula Strangie, who started the NECC Advising Center before her death in 2003.

Betty Arnold was the Faculty Advisor to the "Observer" before her retirement in the 80s. I worked for her on the "Observer" (after my normal working hours in the Publications Office and on Saturdays). (This was considered an extra job.)

I realize I was throwing many names at you and it is easy to get confused, but I am afraid Betty may be concerned about that since she was, as an ace faculty member, such

a stickler about getting the facts correct. I'm sure she still receives the "Observer" as it was her "baby" for so many years. Can you print a small correction? Let me know.

Again, it was a pleasure meeting you and I wish you all the best in your endeavors in the media.

Fondly,

Caryl

P.S. Keep in touch. I think you may have found your calling.

Keeping students informed

Dear NECC Observer,

Thank you for putting an article about the Contemporary Affairs Club in the newspaper. It means a lot to us that the student body knows what we are doing.

Christina Miller
Contemporary Affairs Club

Is spring break a vacation or more time for homework?

Is school work taking vacation time away from hard working students?

By MAKEEBA FRASER
Contributing Reporter

With spring break ahead, many students are looking forward for the time away from school. But are we really going to be getting away?

Although it's a break, I'm sure many students will be working on reports, extra credit assignments, homework sheets, studying for finals, or other school related assignments.

So why do so many students welcome this break, even though they may be completing assignments for the duration of it? I know you do not actually have to get up in order to go to classes, and I'm sure anyone would be glad for that, but its not like your getting rid of the class work you

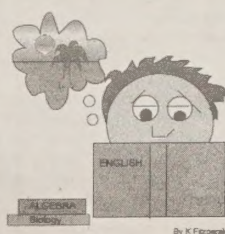
have to complete.

I'm sure during the duration of spring break, most of the time is spent completing class assignments, and in my opinion, that is not a vacation.

Vacations should be time spent enjoying family, friends, or time spent relaxing by yourself.

Vacations should be spent exploring new places, meeting new people, and shopping for more things, not being locked in your house writing papers.

So during spring break, it is advised to take a break while you are on break.



By K Fitzgerald

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers.

Send email to:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Or drop off letters:

Observer newsroom, F-129,
Behrakis Student Center



Letters must be signed and should provide a phone number or email contact information for verification.

Opinion

NECC's 'Seeding Success' program helps student aides reach goals

Paraprofessionals have new requirements under Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' act

By EMILY DIGNAN
Contributing Reporter



When President Bush first proposed to Congress his "No Child Left Behind" act, he failed to mention the role of paraprofessionals in

public schools.

He failed to mention that even though every law mandates that they prove to be "highly qualified," raising the stakes and placing new requirements on paraprofessionals, or teacher's aides, who were already employed at the time.

NECC's Seeding Success program is designed to help those who were left behind by Bush's "No Child Left Behind" act, passed in Jan. of 2001.

Paraprofessionals from

Lawrence and Methuen public schools are eligible for the program, which is paid for by a federal grant of \$1,000,000, awarded in Oct. of 2002.

As of January 2006, "No Child Left Behind" requires of already-hired paraprofessionals one of three things: they must have earned an Associate's Degree, have completed 48 credits towards one or proven their adequacy through a points system, based on participation in professional development workshops within their schools. Before January 2003, only a high school diploma was required.

Jeri Bayer, the program's director, says the act "raises the bar for everybody. Teachers have higher standards, students have higher standards, paraprofessionals have higher standards."

Seeding Success helps paraprofessionals to "prove" their qualification by fulfilling one of these requirements.

The program pays for their tuition and books, offers standardized test preparation classes and assures in any way possible the students are making progress towards their goal.

"People don't want to lose their

have been employed there for as many as 15 years. Participants must complete standard admissions materials for NECC, as well as a special application for the program and a letter of reference from the school's principal.

Bayer also helps her students to prepare for the NECC assessment test, offering a class to help familiarize them with the nature of a computerized test. Otherwise, many are uninformed about the process before taking the test, Bayer adds, and "people get placed erroneously."

Classes are taken mostly at the Lawrence campus, except for lab sciences and others, which require equipment only present on the Haverhill campus.

The program includes special support for ESL students, helping them to prepare for and pass 12-credit CLEP tests in their native language.

Approximately 70 percent of the

ESL program is comprised of Spanish-speaking individuals. Special ESL sections are also offered in core English and writing classes.

The program's first graduates will attend commencement this spring.

"This is a fabulous opportunity to have," says Bayer. "The paraprofessionals are aware of that and are very grateful."

After Seeding Success, many plan to work towards Bachelor's Degrees and become licensed teachers. However, with jobs and families to support, taking a couple night classes a week to inch towards a degree can be intimidating for many participants.

The program offers hope and encouragement to its participants, awarding them certificates after having completed their first 18 credits.

"I try to build a sense of community with the students so they feel like they belong to something," Bayer says. "I think that connection is the key to any student's success in college."

Those interested in the program can contact Bayer at (978) 738-7445, or in her office on the Lawrence campus in room 235.

"NECC's Seeding Success Program is designed to help those that were left behind by Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' act."

jobs," Bayer says. "So, we make sure they're on target."

Jennifer Hawrylcizw, NECC's elementary education coordinator, started the program with money from a small state grant. It began with 15 people, and 120 people participate in the current program. Bayer estimates it can support up to 50 more.

Bayer recruits paraprofessionals through their schools, some of whom

Where did all the hot water go?

Photography students have to supply their own water in order to develop their negatives

By HANNAH CREED
Contributing Reporter

Seeing students bringing bottles of water to class isn't anything unusual, but when they start bringing in jugs of water is when you start to wonder.

Photography students at NECC bring in jugs or personal water bottles filled with water not to drink, but to use to develop their negatives.

For the past month and a half, photography students have not had any hot water in the C building lab on the third floor.

To properly develop negatives, you need a water temperature of at least 68 degrees to 72 degrees Fahrenheit, about room temperature. But with the lack of water heating abilities in the lab, the water doesn't even reach 60 degrees.

Biff Ward, photography professor at NECC went to maintenance

and formally complained about the situation and requested the boiler be fixed.

Ward hoped the boiler would be fixed by March 1, but came to find out it will be another month before students see any hot water.

"Students bring in their own hot water and I fill jugs in the lab for those who don't bring any," said Ward. "Students hate remembering one more piece of equipment for class, but they have to or they could have problems with their negatives."

Superintendent of Buildings Cliff Clarke says he hopes the boiler will be fixed soon and apologizes for the inconvenience to the students.

"To prevent this from happening again, I ordered extra parts to be made for the boiler," Clarke said.

The heating elements for the boilers have to be specially made, because they are 32 years old and nobody warehouses the parts anymore. Clarke stated it takes six weeks for the parts to be made and then shipped.

Students hope the water will be fixed in time for the finals portfolio crunch.

The students do not complain about the small inconvenience, but wish the school had not let it happen in the first place. They just want the hot water back so they can work on their art.

The creeping hand of the FCC

Control freaks are attempting end-run on First Amendment

“An opportunity to extend government control over what we see and hear and say.”

(KRT) As long as there has been television, viewers have complained about it. Archie Bunker of "All in the Family" was a bigot and spewed slurs that had never been heard on television. "Charlie's Angels" helped popularize what became known as "jiggle" television. And the outrageous antics of some guests on Jerry Springer's show and others not only push the boundaries of good taste, they crash through them at break-neck speed.

All of those shows, and many others, have stirred torrents of complaints from viewers. But few have unleashed a storm like the flash of Janet Jackson's breast on the recent Super Bowl halftime show. That exposure on one of the most widely watched television shows of the year was, indeed, inappropriate, and the outrage was easy to understand.

But some folks in Washington seem intent on turning outrage into opportunity — an opportunity to extend government control over what we see and hear and say.

Some angry members of Congress and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell are suggesting that the government should set rules and regulations over what is shown on cable TV, if the cable industry doesn't voluntarily clean up some of its programming.

That idea should be canceled faster than a trashy sitcom. It's noth-

ing more than a creeping, unwarranted government intrusion into American homes and an attempted end-run on the First Amendment.

For most media — newspapers, movies, books, Internet sites — the rules are quite clear. With rare exceptions, the government keeps its hands off anything that is said, printed or transmitted because the First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press.

For broadcast television and radio, however, the rules have been different. The government determined that the limited over-the-air broadcast spectrum was owned by the public, and granted permission for stations to occupy certain slots on that spectrum.

Under the guise of protecting the public airwaves, the FCC has set certain rules on broadcasting. The FCC now bans the broadcast of obscenity (hard-core pornography) at all hours and forbids "indecent" — a broader and vaguer category that includes some profanity — except between the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., argued in hearings last week that it didn't make sense that networks were regu-

lated while cable outlets were not, since they often shared the same dial or box. In a way, he's right. The traditional networks and upstart cable outlets are just a remote control's click away from each other on most televisions now.

But Breaux's conclusion is wrong.

The excuse for regulating broadcast — the spectrum belongs to the public — simply doesn't exist for cable. Cable does not use a public accommodation. The U.S. Supreme Court said as much in 1996 when it ruled Congress could not limit sexually explicit cable television programs to overnight hours.

As the high court said, people choose to buy cable, and if they find it offensive, they can either cancel it, or ask that certain channels be blocked. Of course, many people choose cable precisely because it is free of FCC oversight and thus often airs more daring programming than the networks.

Powell and lawmakers should recognize that the rationale for the FCC's oversight of broadcast standards has largely evaporated over the last decades, as more and more people have subscribed to cable or satellite television services. Right now about 85 percent of Americans get their TV through those pay services, not via free, broadcast television. It's a good bet that radio will go the same route, with the advent of satellite transmission.

TV obscenity obviously is a big and inviting target, particularly in an election year. But a flash of breast on national television does not hand the FCC reason to extend its reach to cable television. Washington should back off.

Opinion

Celebration of Dominican independence and history brings cultures together in Lawrence



By FELICIA PADILLA
Staff Columnist

SPANISH

La segunda celebración de la independencia de la República Dominicana en Northern Essex Community College fue descrita como un día cultural para todos los estudiantes dominicanos y otras culturas quienes asistieron a la celebración de la liberación de los dominicanos.

Maria Gomez y el departamento de actividades estudiantiles fueron quienes organizaron a este evento que ha sido ofrecido en Haverhill y en Lawrence desde que se comenzó. Este evento consistió en la tradicional comida dominicana, música típica, banderas y objetos, los cuales permitieron que los estudiantes entendieran mejor la cultura dominicana.

"El 27 de febrero del año 1844, un grupo de dominicanos declararon nuestro país independiente de Haití. Por lo tanto todos nosotros jubilosos y orgullosos conmemoramos este día

importante de nuestra historia", Gomez explicó.

La celebración fue en el Dimitry Building Atrium en Lawrence campus y comenzó con un breve discurso por el estudiante de ESL José de la Rosa quien dijo que las personas dominicanas tienen que recordar este importante día y la razón por el cual este día se celebra.

"El dominicano es aquel quien representa nuestro país con orgullo y honestidad, poniendo el nombre de ser dominicano en alto, trabajando y colaborando en la ciudad donde vive," De la Rosa dijo.

"Yo me siento muy contento de poder celebrar este nuevo aniversario de nuestra independencia. Esto demuestra que nosotros como inmigrantes contamos en los Estados Unidos especialmente en Massachusetts por celebrar este evento en este colegio," dijo estudiante de Justicia Criminal, Christian Matias.

Después del discurso, DJs Randy Baez y Francis Valdez tocaron una canción dominicana, "Dominicano soy", la cual hizo que los estudiantes se pusieran a bailar y a recordar su querida tierra de donde vinieron. Los estudiantes bailaron merengue y bachata, las cuales son la música tradicional de este país.

"Yo me siento muy orgullosa porque estamos celebrando este valioso día que es muy importante para nosotros," dijo estudiante de ESL Ivan Tiburcio.

Las comidas para esta celebración, por supuesto moro de gandules, pollo al horno, ensaladas, postre, y dulces de este país. También había frutas dominicanas como mangos, guineas, coco y piña las cuales son un símbolo de las frutas dominicanas.

"Yo me siento muy orgullosa que nosotros recordemos este día aunque estemos lejos de nuestro país," dijo la estudiante de ESL Mageline Morales.

Los estudiantes dominicanos estaban muy emocionados acerca de la música, igual que los americanos quienes muchos de ellos no entendían las canciones, pero que se dejaban llevar por su ritmo, y les gustaron los platos dominicanos.

"La comida está muy deliciosa y la música suena cool. Yo solo estoy mirando a las personas bailando porque yo no se como bailar su música. Yo pienso que pudieran enseñar como bailar esta música para la próxima celebración," dijo la asistente dental Melissa Roy.

ENGLISH

Dominican students celebrated their 160th anniversary of independence for the second consecutive year. The Dominican Republic Independence Day at Northern Essex Community College was described as a day of culture for all Dominican stu-

dents as well as other cultures which came together to celebrated the Dominicans freedom.

The event was organized by Maria Gomez and the student activities, and has taken place at Haverhill and at Lawrence campus' since it started last year. This event consisted of traditional Dominican food, typical music, flags and some items which allowed the students to get a better understanding of Dominican culture.

"On February 27, 1844, a group of Dominican people declared our country's independence from Haiti. Therefore, all of us are joyful and proudly commemorate this important day from our history," Gomez explained.

The celebration took place at the Dimitry Building Atrium in the Lawrence campus. It began with a brief speech by ESL student José de la Rosa, who was saying Dominican people have to remember this important day and the reason why they celebrate it.

"A Dominican is one who represents the country with pride and uprightness and who puts the name of Dominican in high work and collaboration to the city where they live," De la Rosa said.

"I feel very proud and happy to celebrate another anniversary of our independence. This is a demonstration that we as emigrants are counted in the United States, especially in Massachusetts by celebrating this

event in this college," criminal justice student Christian Matias said.

After the speech, DJs Randy Baez and Francis Valdez played the Dominican's song, "Dominicano soy (I am a Dominican)" that made some of students dance and remember the land they came from. The students were dancing the merengue and bachata, which are traditional music from this country.

"I feel very glad, because we are celebrating a valuable day which is very important for us," ESL student Ivan Tiburcio said.

The foods for this celebration of course were rice with beans, grilled chicken, salads, deserts and candies from the Dominican Republic. There also were fruits like mango, banana, coconut and pineapple which symbolize Dominican fruits.

"I feel proud that we remember this day, even though we are far away from our country," ESL student Mageline Morales explained.

The Dominican students were excited about the music, and even though Americans did not understand the songs, they followed its rhythms and liked the Dominican dishes.

"The food tastes delicious and the music sounds cool. I'm just watching the people dancing, because I don't know how to dance to their music. I think that they should teach it for the next celebration," dental assistant Melissa Roy expressed.



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Sign up for this incredibly informative workshop
in the Academic Advising Center,
Room B-201 or call 978-556-3440.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 12, 2004

Democrats ask NECC for volunteers

Democratic party holds informational meeting at NECC

By DAVID WILLIS
Editor

Massachusetts State Sen. Steven Baddour took the time to support fellow Massachusetts Democrat and presidential hopeful John Kerry while he and two others explained to an audience at NECC how to become a volunteer for the Democratic National Convention in July.

"Kerry's going to do it and it will be great for Massachusetts," Baddour said. "From day one he was the guy."

About 100 people gathered in the conference area of the Northern Essex library for an informational meeting on how to volunteer for "Boston '04," the Democratic National Convention, which will be held in the Fleet Center in Boston from July 26 to 29.

Megan Holman, director of volunteer recruitment for Boston '04, explained the city will need many people to be able to put on the huge event, which she said most all major democrats will be attending.

While Holman stated there will be many of these meetings throughout the state, she said the meeting at NECC was the only meeting which will involve a state senator, Baddour, addressing his entire district.

She also expressed Baddour was the only senator planning on attending a meeting.

Holman added Boston will need volunteers to do many different jobs,

including driving and giving directions, and all must be supplied to the city by the Democratic Party.

She mentioned the most common job will be working at a "hospitality kiosk."

She explained this job consists of many people stationed throughout the city who would tell visitors how to get to major landmarks in Boston.

"You may be telling the governor of Indiana how to get to the Freedom Trail," Holman said.

She also stated people will be needed as drivers for politicians and other positions attending the event.

Baddour explained anyone who takes this job will be able to drive a "luxury car" and the party will pay for all gas and toll charges.

Holman also mentioned not all jobs required as much knowledge of the city as driving or giving directions.

According to Holman, there were a number of different ways a person could sign up to help out the party.

Her group distributed fact sheets about Boston '04 and official convention volunteer applications those in attendance could fill out and submit during the meeting.

The sheets asked for some personal information and what jobs a person would prefer to have during the event.

Holman explained about 200 people will be stationed inside the Fleet Center, home of the Boston Bruins and Celtics during the con-

vention, but most will be spread throughout the city.

She said the dress code is very relaxed, with a tee shirt being supplied and khaki pants being preferred but not required of volunteers.

She also added a volunteer must be 15-years-old to work without a parent or guardian and people with disabilities helped to find a job which fit them.

Baddour also took this time to do some campaigning for his fellow Massachusetts senator.

"He (Kerry) will be great for education and great for Northern Essex," Baddour said. "He actually walks the walk."

Despite the fact it was not yet determined who would be the

democratic candidate for president, the room was filled with "John Kerry for President" merchandise, such as bumper stickers, informational packets about Kerry and magnets about Kerry and Boston '04. Also available were postcards which could be sent to out-of-state voters, encouraging them to vote for John Kerry.

Current Pres. George W. Bush was also the subject of some criticism, as many of the workers wore pins which had a large "X" over Bush's face.

Voter registration forms were also available for those unregistered. There was also a sheet which could be signed to support Baddour's campaign.

Northern Essex is a great place to do an event," Baddour said. "The staff is great."

John Kerry is going to do it.

— Steven Baddour



David Willis photo

State Sen. Steven Baddour speaks to a group about why they should volunteer for Boston '04. This event took place at NECC.

Concern over changes in selection process and outreach to students for college scholarships

Continued from page 1

removed.

Thus, Bellairs felt the decision was partially being made for the committees by the administration. She stated most of the restricted scholarships were either set in memory of people the faculty have known and cared about or given to students who have overcome difficult obstacles. Who better to do this than the faculty, who have direct access to the students, she said.

"We got to meet inspirational people and give them money," Bellairs said. "What's better than that?"

But she felt with more authority going to Poth's office, institutional advancement, the selection committees would not have much input.

However, she was optimistic the committees would still have the final call.

Mary Ellen Ashley, senior vice president of enrollment management and student services, added the college's goal wasn't to take authority

from the selection committees.

"The faculty just doesn't like change," Ashley stated.

She said while she felt the committees would still have authority, Poth's office is going to try to get them to work on a tighter schedule.

Ashley explained in the past, the selection committees have taken a great deal of time, selecting a student to receive the scholarship. She hopes Poth's office will work to get the committees to make a decision while people are still on campus in June.

She explained Poth's office has always handled the fundraising aspect of scholarships, but has just this year taken over the handling of applications.

Before this year, it was the job of Ashley's staff assistant, Matty Scott, who handled the scholarship database, forms and background work.

But since Scott became part-time after having a child, the responsibility was transferred from student services to institutional advancement.

Another concern of Bellairs was the college does not do enough to get the word out to students.

"The college has attempted to simplify things, although it won't seem like that to the student," Bellairs stated.

She said the college needs to do more to get the word out to students, including giving more information to professors.

Bellairs stated professors receive little more than a broadcast e-mail about the scholarship schedule and are never given much more information.

This is in contrast to Poth, who said it was the job of the faculty to get the word out.

"The faculty has been asked to advise students to apply," Poth said.

Bellairs expressed the school could do things like post signs on bulletin boards and even include information in college publications, such as the Observer to help students learn about what they can do to get scholarships.

She also pointed out it is possible for students who are not eligible for financial aid to receive scholarships, despite the fact the financial aid office tells all scholarship applicants

The college is attempting to simplify things, although it won't seem like that to the student.

—Prof. Priscilla Bellairs

to apply for financial aid.

Bellairs stated the office tends to push financial aid, thus making students who are not eligible for aid think they cannot earn scholarships.

The financial aid office declined to comment on this topic.

NECC gives out 22 restricted scholarships per year. Each scholarship has a selection committee and comes with a number of requirements a student must meet to receive it.

Some are based upon financial need, while others require such things as a GED or enrollment in a certain program. They are worth between \$200 and \$1,000.

The college also gives out a large number of "general scholarships" per year.

The number of general scholarships given out per year depends on the number of students who apply and the money which is available.

According to Poth, \$144,000 was given out last year in about 270 scholarships.

The minimum requirement to receive a scholarship is a 2.5 GPA, but most are given to students who have a 3.0 GPA or better. A student must be registered for at least eight credits.

News

CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Blood Alcohol
Education truck to visit
campus March 24**

On Wednesday, March 24, 2004, the Blood Alcohol Education Truck will visit NECC to educate students on facts about alcohol, including legal limits and consumption.

The program will run from 9-12 on the Lawrence Campus and from 1-4 on the Haverhill Campus.

There will be booths set up where students will engage in as interactive CD-ROM that tests students' knowledge about alcohol. Each participant will get a "free-bee". There is a Spanish version of the CD-ROM as well.

Student clubs are encouraged to participate. Those with questions or who wish to reserve a time slot should to contact Olien Lu at x7416 or Donna Montalbano in Health Services at x7482.

**NECC scholarship
applications now
being accepted**

NECC Scholarship Applications are now being accepted.

Applications are available online at: http://www.necc.mass.edu/financial/financial_scholarship.shtml, or in the Haverhill Campus Financial Aid Office or at the Service Desk on Lawrence Franklin Street Campus.

The deadline to return applications is May 3, 2004. Late applications will not be accepted. Students will be notified of their awards by early August.

There is one general scholarship application for students to complete, which is used by about 100 different scholarship selection committees. Scholarship awards range from \$100 - \$1500 and go towards the subsequent Fall/Spring academic year's tuition, fees, and books (Fall 2004 & Spring 2005).

These scholarships are designed to assist students once they have completed 9 credit hours at NECC and are returning to NECC the subsequent Fall Semester. Each different scholarship has unique selection criteria to accommodate Northern Essex's diverse student population.

**NECCPA meeting is
March 22**

The March general meeting of the NECCPA will be held March 22 at noon in E155 on the Haverhill campus and in L240 on the Lawrence campus, teleconferenced.

**Transfer workshop
open to students who
sign up by March 12**

The Academic Advising Center will sponsor a workshop for students interested in transferring on Monday, March 22, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Those interested may sign up for the informative workshop in the Academic Advising Center, Room B-201 or call 978-556-3440. RSVP is required by Friday, March 12.

Retired professors honored with emeritus status

\$100,000 worth of technology donated by Verizon

By DAVID WILLIS
Editor

A number of retired faculty members were honored at the March NECC board of trustees meeting.

The board approved the granting of six retired NECC professors "Emeritus Status."

Former NECC business professor Frank Leary and natural science professor Francis Champoux were two of the professors awarded the title, which can be given to professors or administrators.

Also graced the status were professors Elaine Haddad, H. Kenrick Holden, Flora McLaughlin and Dr. Francis Osborne.

Requirements for the title are the employee must have worked for the college for at least 15 years and full-time for 10. They must also have shown excellence in their field of work during their time at the college.

They also had to have at least achieved the title of associate professor professional staff level III or a

director in the administration.

All six of the recipients have been retired for at least one full year, the required amount of time to be eligible for the award. Haddad and McLaughlin retired in 2002.

The benefits for the title include free use of the college's facilities, a framed certificate and the right to be called "Professor Emeritus of (field of study)."

The names will also be listed on the college's soon to be installed Emeritus Status plaque.

Hartleb also announced the college would be receiving over \$100,000 in equipment, which was being donated by Verizon.

He explained that, due to the company's downsizing, it no longer needed many of the tools it used to train employees to be computer testers.

The company decided to donate the equipment to the college instead of throwing it out because NECC now does a great deal of training in this area.

Hartleb also commented on NECC professor Kathleen Proietti winning the David R. Pierce Faculty Technology award.

"She is a wonderful woman," Hartleb said.

institutional advancement Jean Poth in the Feb. 4 issue of the Observer.

Also touched on was the Board of Higher Education accountability report.

As was previously reported, the funding for all Massachusetts colleges will soon be dependent on how they score on assessment tests, which score such elements as the percentage of minority students and graduation rate.

The college recently received a report on how they were scoring on different areas of the assessment.

The trustees also were informed Gov. Mitt Romney has made moves to change how college trustees will soon be selected. According to Hartleb, instead of being selected by the college, Romney has put together a selection committee which will choose the college's trustees based upon facts and candidates given to them by the college. Current trustees will also have to face five and 10-year checks.

“There are so many great things going on at this college.”

—Byron Matthews

"There are so many great things going on at this college," stated NECC board of Trustees president Byron Matthews.

News on the Chet Hawryciw performance theater was also discussed. Hartleb said the campaign to raise money for the conversion of Lecture Hall A was underway, and he encouraged all of the trustees to donate money to the cause.

He stated the college needs to raise \$250,000 of the \$500,000 needed for the project, and the other half will be donated by an anonymous donor, according to NECC director of

NECC club debates immigration

Club addresses how how the USA should handle immigrants

By BRENDA BOLDUC
Graphics Editor

Illegal immigrants: should we kick them out, build a wall, or open our borders and let them in? Questions such as these were discussed during a Contemporary Affairs Club meeting held Wednesday, March 3.

"Illegal immigrants are not guests. The moment they set foot on American soil they need to be punished, not rewarded," said NECC student Christina Miller. "Build a wall between us and Mexico like the Berlin Wall."

Miller, a student member of the Contemporary Affairs Club, talked about terrorism and what happened on 9/11. She said she believes that if the United States doesn't keep strict immigration checks on its borders, it leaves the country opened for more terrorist attacks.

Keith Clark, an American Politics student, brought to Miller's attention that the 9/11 terrorists were not illegal immigrants but rather were immigrants who had entered our country legally.

Miller said she doesn't think the United States should close its borders completely, but just be more strict on who we allow in. She suggested background checks and fingerprinting, but the audience pointed out those things are already in place on

our borders.

The US VISIT Program is a new homeland protection program in use at many airports and seaports in which people coming from certain countries are automatically fingerprinted and photographed before they are allowed into the United States.

Even though border security has become strict with visitors from most other countries, President Bush has proposed to ease restrictions on border crossings between Mexico and United States by giving temporary visas to illegal immigrants already working here.

According to The Boston Globe, President Vicente Fox of Mexico said, "The fingerprinting and photograph requirements now won't apply for border-crossing card-holders."

Andrea Rosetto, originally from Italy, said when he stepped into Logan Airport he was fingerprinted right away.

"Most immigrants are coming here to work and send money home so

immigrants are taking jobs away from Americans because he feels there aren't very many Americans who would be willing to pick tomatoes, especially for the low wages paid to the immigrants.

He agrees with Bush's proposal to legalize immigration and feels it would make for fewer illegal immigrants entering the country and

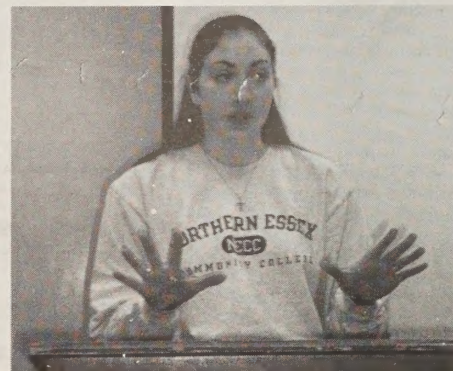
force them to pay taxes, which in return makes for a better America.

Rosetto voiced concerns over Miller's suggestion to build large walls to keep the illegal immigrants from entering the United States. Miller's response was, "I don't care diddly what Mexico thinks of us."

Matthew Geary, a member of the Contemporary Affairs Club spoke on the economic reasons why immigrants come to this country, such as poverty, living conditions, diseases, government, lack of labor laws and other things.

Geary spoke about NAFTA, The North American Free Trade Agreement, and the effect it has had on trade between Mexico, Canada and the United States.

Geary said he feels America



Dustin Gray photo

NECC student Christina Miller expresses her concerns about immigrants in America.

needs to look at the large companies that hire illegal immigrants to work for less money and have more compassion for immigrants.

Rosetto alluded to the fact he would like to be back in Italy, because not only is Italy's economic situation almost equal to America's, but he liked his job much better there. Rosetto moved to America when he married a woman from this country and is now a student here at NECC.

Not only does the Contemporary Affairs Club discuss issues of immigration, they are also planning a trip to the State house, getting together to view the movie "The Passion Of The Christ" and making an attempt to have a traffic light installed on Route 110, where an accident occurred taking the life of a young woman last semester.

“Build a wall between us and Mexico like the Berlin Wall.”

—Christina Miller

their families won't starve," he said.

He also believes immigrants are not coming here to break laws. They are coming here to escape severe poverty. America is a rich country, so when money is sent back home, it helps the poor countries become better places.

Rosetto stated he doesn't believe

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Romney's scholarship plan gives edge to schools in rich areas

BOSTON (AP) Gov. Mitt Romney's plan to help working-class families afford college would mostly benefit students in richer school districts, according to an analysis by The Boston Globe.

Romney announced the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship program during his State of the State address in January. The program would give free public college tuition to students in the top 25 percent of MCAS scorers.

Because scholarship selection would be based only on MCAS scores and because wealthier students tend to score higher, the students most likely to qualify would need the help the least.

Districts with the largest share of winners under Romney's proposal are overwhelmingly affluent, suburban, and white, according to the Globe's review of MCAS scores for this year's junior class.

Romney defended his proposal, saying the awards will reward merit, lift the reputations of state institutions by luring more of the brightest students, and help families cope with rising college costs.

NYC mayor says gays deserve same rights, but not marriage

NEW YORK (AP) The mayor of the nation's largest city says same-sex couples deserve the same rights in civil unions that straight couples enjoy in marriage, but he will continue to enforce New York state's ban on gay marriage.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's statement, reversing his previous refusal to discuss his position on gay marriage, came the same week that dozens of same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses were turned away by the City Clerk, and that state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer held that gay and lesbian marriages are prohibited by state law. However, New York is among 12 states without laws explicitly defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Two butterfly species could go extinct from California wildfires

SAN DIEGO (AP) The wildfires that charred vast areas of Southern California last fall may also have put the survival of two rare species of butterflies at risk, researchers say.

Some experts say it became apparent even while the fires were still smoldering that the flames that blackened more than 745,000 acres, destroyed more than 3,400 homes and killed nearly two dozen people also threatened the existence of the Hermes copper and Thorne's hair-streak butterflies.

"When I saw the magnitude of devastation, I realized in my lifetime I might see one, possibly two species go extinct," said biological consultant Michael Klein.

College votes to keep activity hour the same

'Forum' allows NECC community the chance to voice the opinion

BY BILL DONOVAN
News Editor

NECC held its "College Open Forum" where NECC faculty and staff from both campuses argued and voiced their opinions on whether to change the college activity hour to a different time. The meeting was held Monday, March 1 in the E-building.

After much discussion and debate, a vote was made on keeping the activity block at its regular time. NECC's student activity hour is a time for clubs and organizations to meet from 12-1 p.m., Mondays and Fridays.

On a large video screen in front of the lecture hall, faculty from the Lawrence campus interacted with Haverhill faculty members.

"Changing the time period is not a good thing. It's great to have a student mental health block at this time," Dina Brown, NECC coordinator of student activities and orientation, said during the forum. "This change would really hurt all of the clubs and organizations. It's important we keep the activity blocks on Monday and Friday from 12 to one. Students wouldn't be available later on in the day with their work schedules."

"We would lose most of the opportunity for student enjoyment during this time if it were changed. The college experience is not just going to classes and going home," stated Lawrence criminal justice professor Carol Liebman.

Some NECC faculty felt lengthening the activity time would benefit student events.

"I sense there's a shift to move this," added Music professor Michael Finegold. "I remember in the past, we had meetings from 12 to three. We had plays, concerts and other events during this time. Students wouldn't have to come back on the weekend. I think we've lost a lot of college life because of the change to an hour."

"This is a problem and it's getting worse and worse. The choice is between activities or academics," explained professor George Medelinskas of Computer and Information Sciences.

A caution was made to everyone at the debate on the effect the change in time would have on student academics as well.

"However we go forward, let's go forward carefully. We are here to teach the students," urged Paul Bevilacqua, NECC Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs. "There are no perfect solutions. When you take an hour away, you

have a big impact on academic scheduling. Maybe these committees could consider moving these meetings until three in the afternoon."

Faculty responded to Bevilacqua's proposal.

"I don't want Monday and Wednesday from 12 to one suddenly filled with classes because of this," responded English professor Priscilla Bellairs.

Examples were also given by staff of how effective the student activity hour is.

"During 9/11, we had many presentations on campus done about

Islam during the 12 to one meeting times. These meetings drew more than a hundred in attendance," expressed Judith Kamber of Staff Development.

"We held Winterfests and Spring Jams during activity hours, which gathered 300 students," explained Nita Lamborghini of NECC College Life and Healthy Living. "It's a great opportunity to gather students and get them involved. We get lots of numbers of students, and it's not just repeat students who come to these. We get wonderful feedback on the growth and learning of students."

Voting took place after many views were expressed. The majority voted on keeping the activity hour at its usual time.

This change would really hurt all of the clubs and organizations.

—Dina Brown

Learning Accommodations Center serves disabled

Nearly 350 students use services at campus center

BY SEAN DOYLE
Contributing Reporter

Disabled students on the Northern Essex campus are able to manage life at NECC a little easier, thanks to the services provided by the Learning Accommodations Center, according to Susan Cunningham, the co-director of Disabilities Service Management.

She said the center, located on the first floor of the student center, serves nearly 350 disabled students attending NECC, and the college has been providing services to students with disabilities for a minimum of 15 years.

"Services have evolved from the counseling department to the Office for Students with Disabilities to the Learning Accommodations Center," said Cunningham, who has 25 years of experience in the field of Special Education.

The Learning Accommodations

Center offers services to 200 students who are learning and physically disabled, 25 students who are deaf or hard of hearing and to 121 students who have psychiatric disabilities, Cunningham stated.

To provide these services, the college employs 20 part-time staffers in three programs under the umbrella of the Accommodations Center.

The center provides students with numerous tools and services.

In the classroom, many students have a notetaker with them for each lecture. Other study aids include enlarged print for handouts, taped lectures and books on tape.

The accommodations center staff insures students are able to take tests with reduced distractions, extra time when needed and with readers and scribes for those students with visual and motor skill impairments.

Students can also use assisting technologies at the accommodations

center.

Some of the available tools include computer programs such as ZoomTee, Jaws and Screen Reader along with a variety of magnifying devices, which make reading text easier.

A wide variety of services are offered.

—Elaine DiVincenzo

"A wide variety of services are offered," said Elaine DiVincenzo, a disability services case manager at NECC for three years who is also a

25-year veteran in the Special Education field.

According to Cunningham, federal law requires colleges offer these services, which are mandated under the American With Disabilities Act as well as Section 504 of the Education Law.

Beyond assistance in the classroom, the Accommodations Center also offers an advocacy group for students and also assists students in connecting with college and community resources outside of NECC.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Shooting breaks out in Haiti as protestors demand Aristide be tried for corruption

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) Gunshots erupted Sunday at a protest to demand that ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide be tried for corruption and fomenting violence. At least four demonstrators and a foreign journalist were killed.

Witnesses blamed Aristide militants. The shooting occurred as crowds gathered in front of the presidential National Palace.

Witnesses said they saw Aristide supporters shooting at the crowd in front of the National Palace, and they complained that peacekeepers did nothing to prevent the violence.

Haitian police and U.S. and French troops began patrolling the area of the shooting to bring order.

Aristide released a statement through government officials in the Central African Republic, where he is in exile, saying he was "well-looked after" and will personally address reporters at an unspecified time. Aristide has said the United States forced him from power, something U.S. officials deny.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan reject reforms in Middle East

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) Both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan Sunday refused any outside reform initiatives for the region, saying such moves must respect religious and cultural values.

On the last day of his two-day visit to the kingdom, Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf met with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Sunday, and both rejected any attempts at change that are imposed on Muslim and Arab countries from the outside.

Many countries around the region have been concerned that the United States is trying to impose a blueprint for reform in the Middle East.

Venezuela's president warns US against invading his country

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) President Hugo Chavez on Sunday vowed to freeze oil exports to the United States and wage a "100-year war" if Washington ever tried to invade Venezuela.

The United States has denied ever trying to overthrow Chavez, but the leftist leader has accused Washington of being behind a failed 2002 coup and of funding opposition groups seeking a recall referendum on his presidency.

Chavez accused the United States of ousting former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and warned Washington not to "even think about trying something similar in Venezuela."

Features

Life Long Learning presents "Rosie the Riveter," a character in the WWII era

NECC professor will be discussing US women's history

JOSHUA BROWN
Contributing Reporter

Women's history month is upon us here at NECC and the Life Long Learning program is presenting the famous "Rosie the Riveter" on March 18.

"Rosie the Riveter" was used as propaganda to promote women to work in the factories during the World War II era while the men were at war. Rosie has her denim-sleeves rolled up high to reveal her ripped muscles, and she sports a red bandana on her head with her hair hidden to portray that women are all powerful and strong.

Pat Morrow, an NECC profes-

sor who is currently teaching two sections of English Composition II, will be presenting the event at the Life Long Learning workshop.

"I have a long time love of history, especially US women's history," said Morrow.

Morrow is a graduate from Middlesex Community College where she received her associate's degree. She also attended UMass-Boston, where she earned her bachelor's, and Lesley University, where she received her master's degree. During her two years at NECC, she has been working within various departments.

"I taught a full semester course on Women in the US history at NECC last spring, which was fabulous. I am hoping to teach it again next spring, possibly on-line," said Morrow.

The lecture on "Rosie the Riveter" will focus on Rosie and other women who went to the factories and the shipyards to provide

materials for the war that played a crucial role in the war's success.

Morrow will discuss how these women accomplished this immense task and at the same time took care of their children and homes. Participants will discuss realities and myths of women and the American war effort.

"I certainly hope my enthusiasm for the topic is shared by many others who are interested in attending this workshop," said



web.uccs.edu

The famous World War II-era poster of "Rosie the Riveter" that promoted women working in the factories while the men were off serving in the war.

Morrow.

The Life Long Learning program is geared towards adults 50 and older, but students and people of all ages are welcome also.

"People come based on their interest of the subject, but when they're interested they will come out in pretty much any weather," said Carol Duhart, the Life Long Learning program director.

An estimated 35-100 people will come to the workshops depending on their interest.

"It's quite likely that this event will be female dominated but much of the audience is over the age of 65 and men might come because it was during their era," commented Duhart.

This program meets every Thursday at 2 p.m. to discuss different topics.

The lecture on "Rosie the Riveter" will be held on March 18. Light refreshments are always served and admission is \$1.

Author comes to NECC for a reading

Kate Clifford Larson, also plans book signing for Harriet Tubman biography

MAKEEBA FRASER
Contributing Reporter

March is women's history month, and to commemorate it, Northern Essex Community College will be inviting Kate Clifford Larson to hold a reading and book signing from her new book, a biography about Harriet Tubman.

"Bound for the Promise Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero" is the very first Harriet Tubman book really writ-

ten for adults in 60 years.

This book is based on Larson's dissertation. Larson recently earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of New Hampshire, where she studied with roommate Gail Feigenbaum, who teaches early childhood education here at NECC.

Larson began studying at UNH from the fall of 1996 to May 2003. In addition to her Ph.D., Larson also has specialties in Women's and African-American history.

Larson is a finalist for the Lerner-Scott Dissertation Award from the Organization of American Historians for the best dissertation in women's history. In addition to this award, she has been offered to teach American History at UNH and Simmons College.

Larson said the reason why she decided to write her dissertation on

Harriet Tubman was based on a story she read to her daughter, "One evening, back while I was attending Simmons College for my bachelors' degree, I was reading a children's book based on Harriet Tubman to my daughter who was six or seven at the time, and while I was reading it, I became so interested in Harriet Tubman that I went in search of an adult biography to read. Surprisingly, I found nothing, and when I told my college professors about this, they advised me to write one for my dissertation."

Presently, Larson is taking a semester off from teaching American History at Simmons College to give lectures about Harriet Tubman and to talk about her book.

Gail Stuart, who is the reference librarian at the college's

library, noted copies of the book will be available for students who are interested in purchasing it at the bookstore and it will be available for students who want to borrow it from the library.

Stuart also agrees with Larson in saying, "I think it's great now that this book is available, because many times students are looking for books to do research on Harriet Tubman and the only books that are available are books that are not suitable for college research because they are the kind of books you read in high school that are designed for young adults."

The reading and signing of Larson's book will be Mar. 26, 2004 in the A&B Conference room from 12:00 until 2:00.



Larson was inspired to write a book about Harriet Tubman when she found a lack of books about her.

Nominations being accepted for award

Association wants nominations for Outstanding Student Award

BY LAUREN E. CARROLL
Features Editor

It's that time of year again when another school year nears the end and another class graduates. It's also time to get nominations in for the annual Outstanding Student Award. This year, nominations are being accepted by anyone who thinks a person is worthy for the

award, meaning a person can even nominate themselves for the award.

In years past, only faculty and staff were given the privilege of nominating graduating students. Now, anyone in the college community is able to. The recipient will be recognized at convocation during the award ceremony Thursday, May 13.

The award is given to a student who has excelled in an academic program, has personal goals and has contributed to the college and the community while at NECC. A com-



The Alumni Association is always looking for reasons to recognize students for their hard work.

-Libby Jensen

mittee from the Alumni Association goes through all the applications and chooses a student who seems well-rounded, one who can be represented as a role model to their fellow students and one who all can be proud of.

decision because we have a lot of outstanding students at this college" said Libby Jensen, director of alumni and donor relations.

"The recipient of the award will receive an engraved plaque and the

The committee looks for a student who distinguishes themselves during their time at NECC.

"We wish that we could award everyone with this award. It's a very difficult

recognition of a job well done" added Jensen.

The idea to give an award to congratulate an honorary graduating student for their outstanding work was first introduced in 1990 and has been apart of the award ceremony ever since.

"The Alumni Association is always looking for reasons to recognize students for their hard work. This award was one of their ideas" said Jensen.

For more information on this award and nominations, go to the NECC website and click on the alumni link or visit the Alumni department on the third floor of the library. The deadline for nominations is Apr. 15.

Features

One US hero and a mother's faith

NECC instructor battles worries as her son takes flight to Iraq

BY LAUREN E. CARROLL
Features Editor

NECC Instructor Janet Nicolaisen returned from church on Sunday morning, a place that always concludes its service with requests for prayers, and where her son, Ben Ivone, is the first one mentioned.

Ben had enlisted for the Marine Reserves when he was 17 as a senior at Triton high school.

Five years later, the Monday after Christmas, Ben, 22, received a call from the Marines telling him he was going to be deployed in three weeks.

Nine days later, he was on a plane to California for combat training. Ben was told he would be stationed in there for a while and then shipped overseas.



Lauren E. Carroll photo

The Blue Star Service Flag was placed on the Byfield Fire Station in honor of Ben.



Photo courtesy of Janet Nicolaisen

Ben at the age of 18 in his Marines uniform.

After a few weeks, Ben was on another plane to Saudi Arabia then to Kuwait, where he would be stationed until he would be on his way to Iraq.

"My daughter came to see me at work and asked me if Ben had training the upcoming weekend. I wasn't sure, then she told me that the Marines called and my heart sank," said Nicolaisen as tears filled her eyes. "Then Ben called with the news, I cried right there at work."

Before Ben had left, his mother arranged a farewell gathering in honor of him. The house Ben grew up in in the small town of Byfield was filled with friends and family who came to wish Ben their best.

"Ben was very overwhelmed by the show of support he received," said Nicolaisen, a part-time employee at NECC who teaches a semester-long course of first aid and CPR and works full-time as a communications coordinator at the Amesbury police depart-

ment.

Ben seemed to walk the same path as his mother. He works at AMR in Haverhill as an EMT-I, and he is on the on-call department for the Byfield fire department. Ben was going to school to advance to become a paramedic, which the fire department was sponsoring. He's also on the First Aid National Safety Council.

While Ben serves in Iraq, his two younger sisters and brother await his return. Krissy, 20, is a junior at UCONN and is currently in Spain for study abroad.

Nicolaisen worries that "every time she watches the news and hears that another soldier dies that she will be scared to death. On the outside, Krissy was the most emotional. She told Ben before he left 'make sure you come back.'"

Brandon, 19, is a freshman at North Shore Community College. Nicolaisen said he isn't a person who will tell you his feelings but you can see them. Brandon took Ben's place as an on-call fireman at the Byfield fire department, and he's become closer to Ben's dog, Bell.

Laura, 17, is a senior at Triton who plans to attend Salem State next fall. She, too, has become more attached to Bell, and she's expressed feelings to her mother about how Ben won't be there at her graduation or at her senior prom.

It took a while for Ben's father, Tom Ivone, to realize the reality of his son being shipped overseas.

He told Nicolaisen, "I didn't realize that this was really going to happen."

"Someone asked me to describe how I feel, I asked them, 'have you ever had a child who got bullied at school?', well this is the biggest bully," said Nicolaisen.

Then Ben called with the news, I cried right there at work.

-Janet Nicolaisen

Nicolaisen is reassured Ben's training will get him through this time in his life, and she trusts the men before him and the men behind him. She said faith is getting her through.

"I spend a lot more time praying now than I have before," said Nicolaisen.

Ben's job in the military is to repair weapons, but now he is over in Iraq ready for combat with his gun by his side for protection.

"Ben is fighting for his country. He took on an obligation and he is seeing it through and I respect him for that. I am so proud of him," said Nicolaisen.

Ben's mother wears a pin on her shirt of the Blue Star Service Flag. This flag represents families who have loved ones serving in the armed forces. This pin was given to Nicolaisen by one of her friends who had a son in the armed forces.

Ben was in one of the troops that went over to relieve previous troops, which her friend's son was a part of.

When he returned home safely, Nicolaisen's friend gave the pin to her to wear until Ben returns home.

This same flag was appointed to the Byfield fire department in honor of Ben and is hung outside of the station where his fellow crew members await his safe return from Iraq.

Nicolaisen proudly hangs her Blue Star Service Flag in her window that faces the road and the American and Marines flag raised high in her yard.

Ben is a hero in whatever light he stands under. His jobs revolve around saving the lives of others as well as fighting for his country. Many friends and family are waiting until the day when they can see their beloved soldier again. Ben is expected to return home within nine to 12 months.



Lauren E. Carroll photo

Janet Nicolaisen holds her son's picture and wears the Blue Star Service Flag pin over her heart.

Professor tells of her Netherlands trip

Professor Thieffels encourages faculty and staff to take part in next trip

BY BILL DONOVAN
News Editor

NECC ESL professor Jane Thieffels told of her exciting and informative journey to the Netherlands last spring, giving a Powerpoint presentation to the faculty on Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the C-building.

Showing slides of where she stayed and the many people she met, Thieffels urged her audience to get involved with the NECC and Koning Willem College International Exchange program, which will sponsor another trip to the country Oct. 16 through Oct. 30.

"It's a really great opportunity for faculty and staff to see how other countries view education," commented Beth Wilcoxson, NECC director of international studies during the slide show.

The NECC and Koning Willem College International Exchange program is a two-week expedition to the Netherlands Oct. 16 through Oct. 30.

Both U.S. and Dutch faculty share this trip.

A Dutch professor first visits

America for two weeks and lives with their host, who is also participating in the program. After their stay, an American visits the Netherlands and is hosted by this Dutch professor.

"If I was to learn a second language, it would be in the Netherlands," said Thieffels. "They had really nice workable elements and laboratories in their schools."

Thieffels attended Koning and Willem Community College, a former military bunker which serves 13,000 students and 1,000 faculty.

She stayed in the town of Waalwijk with a Dutch professor named Helma. The community college was only a half hour away and south of Amsterdam.

Thieffels said she would sometimes ride a bicycle to the school or catch a ride with Helma.

"Not many students drove to the college. There were bicycle lanes in the road filled with students going to class," noticed Thieffels.

What impressed Thieffels so much at Koning Willem was the positive morale Dutch faculty had there.

"I found the sharing and camaraderie to be amazing," expressed Thieffels. "I had so many contacts to go to for information. Everyone ate lunch at the same time together."

While at school, Thieffels visited many classes and met most of the administration. She felt there was a great sense of innovation in Dutch



Bill Donovan photo

Professor Jane Thieffels gives a slide show presentation of the Netherlands to faculty and staff.

society. "My mind was opened to a new reality. I must say that I was totally impressed," Thieffels explained to her audience. "There's taxes going into social programs. Extraordinary artists have a very special place in Dutch society. People there seek to protect nature by making composts in their yards. People are open to ideas."

Thieffels showed slides to the group of Helma's house in Waalwijk. Her house was small and simple, facing a cobble-stoned road.

Thieffels told her audience, "In the Netherlands, it's very hard to

build, they appreciate nature. Everything there is so green and lush. There is a lot of contrast between some of the old and new architecture. It's like there are no 2

houses alike, which is a feast for your eyes."

Another aspect Thieffels found favorable was how friendly the Dutch were to her during the visit. "There's a degree of comfort, because they are very friendly and easy to get along with. Helma really let me in on her life," Thieffels explained. "You really get an insight on people's lives."

As the slide show concluded, Thieffels urged the faculty present at the event to take part in the exchange program. "If we can get a core of teachers who have gone, we could do a lot of innovative things," said Thieffels.

Applications for the NECC and Koning Willem College International Exchange program are due Mar. 12. They are to be dropped off at room 314X in the C-building on Haverhill's campus.

"There's nothing to lose. We have a lot to give them and they have a lot to give us," stated Thieffels.

"It's a really great opportunity for faculty and staff to see how other countries view education."

-Beth Wilcoxson

'Scantily Clad' premieres at NECC

By LISA COPPOLA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The cafeteria at Northern Essex was filled with girls dancing around in tight nylons and corset tops. All of this exciting commotion was the premiere of the show "Scantily Clad."

I was intrigued, as anyone would be by the drawings of fishnet nylons and curvaceous figures on the flyers.

I had heard about it in between my classes at the school and had noticed the posters hanging throughout NECC.

I was mostly intrigued and per-

sueded to go when I realized one of NECC's most talented singers was going to be putting on the show. Erika Gooding was performing as the character Madam-E.

I had seen Gooding, a NECC student, perform before in local bars with her band and had heard her years back on the steps of NECC, singing aloud with her fellow chorus members.

I knew whatever she was a part of would be filled with her powerful voice and creative ideas.

The show was amazingly choreographed by group member Danielle

Parker. Sean Gaff played the flamboyant host, having just as many costume changes as the girls.

There was no real storyline, more of a musical with an eye-catching experience taking place both on-stage and off. It had the feeling of an old-time cabaret.

I was shocked to find out after the performance almost all the speaking parts were performed improv.

"I wanted the show to be visually stimulating as well as orally stimulating," Gooding said.

That it was. Being a person with a very short attention span, I had expected to get bored during some part of the show. This didn't happen.

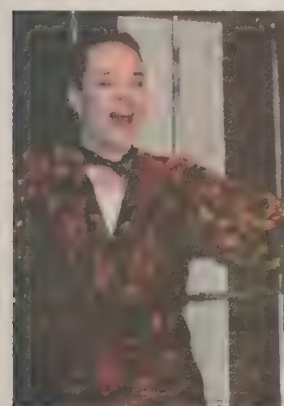
The costume changes were sudden and frequent. They were bright and pleasing to the eye. Skits were funny with loads of sexual connotations.

When it came to the singing, Gooding truly stole the show. Her voice filled the room so strongly I actually felt as though I was watching an opera at times.

The other members of the group had their own characters, which each played with all their heart and soul. I would like to comment especially on the "little girl" of the group, Gina Elise, who performed as Gi Gi. She was an exceptional comedian when she did the skit concerning the mink coat with a New York accent. It brought my mind wondering back to the movie 'My Cousin Vinnie.'



Dustin Gray Photo



Dustin Gray Photo

Sean Gaff performs as the host.



Dustin Gray Photo

Erika Gooding creates a strong presence.

"I was getting bored with happy Disney type stuff," says co-producer and NECC student Sean Gaff.

This production was far from a happy-go-lucky innocent show. It was more of a burlesque show mixed in with a modern Vegas attitude.

"Everyone seemed to enjoy it, I love everything Sean does," said audience member Kevin Farley.

"We want to show the hour glass buxom pin-up girls of the forties. Women were admired for being healthy back then," Gaff said.

Gaff and Gooding started putting together the show a year ago, after they were turned away from City Hall with other productions in mind. They were also not supported by the music club here at NECC.

"I feel as though the vocal group has been in the shadow of the performance assemble, but we're growing," Gaff said.

Anytime, Anywhere Productions is the name of what used to be called Curtain Call, Gaff and Gooding's old group. These performers put in all the money needed to put it on themselves without help from the school.

"Alison Gagne was a tremendous help, she made everything very simple, and I could do everything over the phone," Gaff said. He added, "Professor Sabrina Quintana was also very supportive."

Gaff and Gooding say they would love to do a repeat performance if the interest was there.

Cosmetic surgery, leaking out of Hollywood

The media continues to push the idea a youthful appearance is a must for women

By LISA COPPOLA
Arts & Entertainment Editor



There once was a time when I would look down at my chest and think to myself, "Hey not bad!"

These days of healthy confidence may be getting shorter and shorter for myself and women in general. Within the past decade, especially the past two years, television programming has gone on an artificial outbreak.

Every time you turn on the TV, you are likely to see completely unrealistic images of the way beautiful women should look. The lighting techniques on the sets, the hairstylists, fake tans and makeup artists just don't seem to be enough to satisfy the lingering viewer and knock down the average impressionable women.

Plastic surgery seems to be Hollywood's biggest prerequisite, and these values have started to leak into my hometown.

At the rate this country is going, in 10 years, plastic surgery, along with all its risks and false happiness,

will have invaded even the smallest of towns, leaving natural women left to feel deformed and out of place.

Television does the thinking for us. Television sells ads, it sells society trends. There is no way to stop this, but people should be seeing the downside of surgery, just as much as Demi Moore's youthfully implanted face. Oh wait, that wouldn't sell right?

But people should still at least know the facts. As for the men who will read this article and disagree with my feelings on the issue, here is an analogy. Say you have a somewhat above average sized penis, now imagine if it was becoming a trend to get penis enlargements and it was a thing a lot of people you knew were giving in to. Now in five or so years when compared to others, you are just a little below average because you didn't follow the trend. You will be seen as being less attractive because you haven't spent tons of money or taken the risk of surgery.

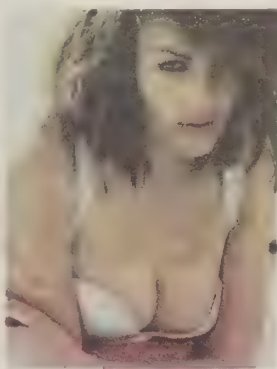
The parts women don't have "corrected" can't be hidden in jeans. They are out there for all the world to see and for all the world to judge. Of course in a perfect world appearances would mean much less than a beautiful mind, but this is a world is full of insecurities. From shows like "Extreme Makeover" to "Baywatch" and even "Friends," plastic surgery is everywhere, and it is usually only the women who get pushed in to the idea they need it.

For most famous women actresses, there is a deep fear of losing their jobs if their vibrant appearance starts to sag. As for their careers, since

surgery equals success for them, there are serious downfalls for the rest of society.

The number of cosmetic procedures in this country have skyrocketed to a 293 percent increase from 1997, according to Time Magazine in 2004.

There have been many women I have always thought had amazing



www.actressarchives.com

Elizabeth Hurley has bought these shapley assets.

bodies only to later find out they were partly fake. Why are the idea of getting older and the natural aging process such a burden on women?

Men are getting these procedures done also, yet only make up about 15 percent of these figures according to American Heritage Magazine.

Not only are there serious health risks, loss of sensitivity and possible death from these surgeries, there are

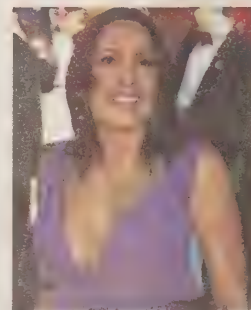
also many more frequent psychological aspects.

Plastic surgery does have an upside, though. It can almost give people back what they once had before a tragedy such as a fire, war, or even breast cancer.

I decided to check out the show "Extreme Makeover" on ABC. The segment I watched starred two twin sisters, Cat and Carolyn. Carolyn wanted to look like her sister. She had low confidence in the way she appeared most of her life because of her sister's looks in comparison with her own. Cat, who was referred to as "The Pretty Twin" throughout the entire show by the unseen host, wanted to jump on the bandwagon and get some breast implants while her sister went through with her surgery.

"The difference in their looks is what drove them apart," the host said. Is this the type of world where strictly looks can drive two sisters apart? Hmm... seems like there is more emotional aspects to this story then the viewers learn. If they had learned what kept the sisters apart in life, then maybe a more psychological solution may have been the answer.

During the commercial breaks, I was angered but not surprised by the huge number of weight loss commercials, showing only women as the characters. Everything from "One A Day Weight Smart" multivitamins to "SlimFast" shakes were shown and surely were programmed at the time in order to make the average women think about what she may need to do to improve herself.



Patricia Heaton, actress from 'Everybody Loves Raymond' talks publicly about her many cosmetic procedures.

When the show returned, viewers found out not only did Carolyn get surgery to fix her gum line and teeth erosion, two health problems which may need attention sooner or later, she also received a chin implant, eye lift, a breast lift and enlargement, a tummy tuck and liposuction.

"This makeover could give me a second chance," she says.

A second chance to appear like someone else, someone who doesn't even exist? To have a body which didn't take hard work and accomplishment and whose parts are not even human? She may feel a new sense of confidence, one which will most likely fade over time and possibly disappear when a new problem enters her life.

Arts & Entertainment

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Room A301, Bentley Library
978-556-3621 or email: alumni@necc.mass.edu

Chamber music concert is March 28

On Sunday, March 28, at 4 p.m., the Essex Chamber Music Players will present a multi-faceted music program for all ages featuring a new musical adaptation of *Pinocchio* by Kate Sullivan, and two compositions by Ross Moyer entitled *Prayer* and *Buttonwood* at One Hundred which commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Haverhill Historical Society's Buttonwoods Museum.

The ECMP will also perform as part of the program Trio No. 29 by Franz Joseph Haydn.

Kate Sullivan's *Pinocchio* based on the tale by Carlo Collodi is written for accordion, flute, cello, piano, hammer, chisel, and musical saw and musical saw and involves narration and the visual projection of paintings and silhouetted figures meant to evoke the magic and beauty of the original Italian story.

Joanne Sullivan, executive director of the Haverhill Historical Society will introduce Ross Moyer's new works as part of her presentation on the Buttonwoods Museum and its history.

Sullivan's presentation will include a reading of an excerpt from John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "The Sycamores" which mentions the Buttonwoods Museum.

Audiences of all ages will enjoy the history, poetry and new musical works offered.

Audiences of all ages will enjoy and benefit from the history, poetry and new musical works being offered as part of this concert.

The Essex Chamber Music Players' motto is "Music for the Twenty-first Century - Treasures of the Past, New Music Premieres." ECMP supports new works by local composers as well as the classics of the past.

The concert takes place in the Conference Center of Bentley Library, Haverhill campus.

General admission at the door, and E-Ticketing www.mvarts.info \$10.00; students, senior citizens: \$5.00; families: \$25.

For additional information call: 978-556-3413 or e-mail mfinegold@necc.mass.edu. This concert is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Arts & Entertainment

'The Passion of the Christ' not for the sensitive

BY DEREK BEDARD
Staff Columnist

Ok, so I'll admit I'm not really a religious guy. So doing this review is a little different for me. But I'm a spiritual guy, so on that note, how come nobody told me that his holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (The Beatles' spiritual leader) spoke here at NECC back in 1987? Sure, I was 4, but still, it's something I'd have liked to have seen.

On that note, the movie which has been receiving the most media attention over the past year is the Mel Gibson film "The Passion of the Christ."

Currently, it's being touted as one of the most violent films ever made, and I tend to agree with that.

The scenes in the last 15 minutes featuring the physical torture of Jesus Christ (James Caviezel) are just too hard for many people to handle. Not only that, the film itself is a lesson in violence throughout.

According to the Catholic Church, the Pope says this is the



KRTcampus photo

Jesus (James Caviezel) speaks with his apostles.

most accurate telling of the bible. I myself tend not to believe this for reasons of my own beliefs.

Violence itself may very well be

the only good thing about the movie. Not because it's violence, but because to a point, it's the most beautiful thing in the film.

The telling of the story is kind of off to a degree, as they make it seem like Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci) and Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov) are far more pure than they are in the written word of the Bible.

Another huge issue in the film is anti-semitism.

Depending on whom you ask, the film is very abusive towards the Jewish religion and the Jewish people. I don't necessarily feel that was the case, but you do have a case of abuse towards Jewish people.

James Caviezel as Jesus is probably the best casting decision in the film, as he really portrays Jesus almost as good as anyone ever has by focusing his acting into the pain and the torture of a man who's fate was not in question.

However, I thought the rest of the cast was weak in parts.

I think more or less, this movie is not so much the chronicling of the last hours of Christ as it is Mel Gibson's views of the last hours.

Don't get me wrong. I think from an artistic standpoint this is one hell of a film. The makeup and cos-

turning are second to none. Caleb Deschanel continued his long run of great works ("The Patriot," "The Natural," "The Right Stuff," and "Being There" before this).

From an entertainment and theological standpoint, this is not very entertaining or theological.

If you like Mel Gibson films, then you don't want to see this film, as this is not a "popcorn" film as it's put. However, if you are into the works of the bible or follow the church, then view at your own caution.

In my opinion, this is not the best movie ever made on Christ, as "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "King of Kings" and "The Last Temptation of Christ" are all far more entertaining (the latter-most film is actually not as bad as you think).

Not to mention those films would serve you better if you are not into the extreme sense of violence and just want something to take your kids to see and enjoy yourself (except for "Temptation," whatever you do, don't let your kids watch that!)

'Average Joe' below average expectations

BY SOKHARY SOK
Contributing Reporter

The "Average Joe: Hawaii" finale was a complete disappointment to fans, myself included, when Larissa Meek, a former Miss Missouri turned down Brian Worth from East Boston.

She turned her back on Brian and chose Gil Hyatt, a guy who focused mostly on his muscles and had nothing interesting to say. This after Worth had taken Larissa to his "favorite place in the whole world," Fenway Park.

“
Most reality shows are useless and a bit of a disappointment when the underdog of the show does not get the guy or girl

After the rejection of Brian, Larissa and Gil flew to a tropical paradise, spending a few days together. It seemed as if they were enjoying the time they had.

Before their trip ended, Larissa

revealed to Gil her ex-boyfriend was none other than romance-novel model Fabio. Hyatt was so shocked and taken back by this revelation he rejected the woman who had chosen him out of 25 other men.

The show is so unfair, the women are mostly former Misses and are choosing men who are attractive, yet have no kind of personality. For example, in the first season of "Average Joe," Melana, the first woman, chose Jason, a man in his mid to late 20's who still lived with his parents over Adam. Adam is a successful businessman who works for Wall Street and was a great guy.

Unfortunately for the first contestant, I hope she gets what is coming to her.

Most reality shows are useless and a bit of a disappointment when the underdog of the show does not

get the girl or guy. The couples who are paired up on reality shows are together for a few months and break up, with the exception of Kristin and Ryan who actually fell head over heels for each other on the "Bachelorette."

I am excited to say Adam, our first "Average Joe" will be returning to the show and will be given the opportunity to find true love. He will be in the position of deciding and choosing whom he has a connection to by the end. The show will premiere in two weeks on NBC at 10:00 pm on Mon. night.

Manson's antics represent his creative side

Love him or hate him, Manson is a talented artist

BY ERIC DIONNE
Contributing Reporter

Since "shock rocker" Marilyn Manson's first album "Portrait of an American Family" was released in 1994, there has been countless controversy on this performer, most of which without looking past the make-up and unusual outfits.

Whether you love him or hate him, the self-proclaimed "Antichrist Superstar" has been indisputably among the most notorious and controversial entertainers of the past decade.

In 1992, "Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids" were among the most popular acts in south Florida, and in '93, Trent Reznor of "Nine Inch Nails" offering them a contract with his label Nothing Records as well as the chance to open for NIN that spring.

With newly acquired bassist,

Twiggy Ramirez, the group's notoriety began to soar.

During a show in Salt Lake City, Manson ripped apart a copy of the Book of Mormon while onstage, soaring to the top of the charts on a platform of sex and drugs.

Their release of "Smells Like Children" in 1995 broke the band into the music mainstream and were propelled by their cover of the "Eurythmics'" "Sweet Dreams (are made of This)."

As Manson's popularity grew, so did all the pickets and attacks from the right-wing and religious fronts.

"This is perhaps the sickest group ever promoted by a mainstream record company," said Joe Lieberman in the documentary of "Bowling for Columbine."

The most ludicrous of comments is when people say Manson and his music is just a tool for people to commit suicide or to carry out violent acts. I mean, come on!

"When I was a kid, music was the only escape, that's the only thing that didn't have any judgments," said Manson in "Bowling for Columbine."

I know I have listened and bought every Marilyn Manson

album, but I have never thought of killing myself or carrying out any acts of violence. All these people accuse him of these things because they need an outlet.

"It's easy to throw my face on TV because in the end, I'm a poster boy for fear, because I represent what everyone is afraid of, because I do and say what I want," said Manson.

"He has crazy eyes and is a crazy freak of a man, but he is a very creative person who does what he wants and has always done it. People think it's an act, but he's just being himself," said Sean Seaberg, who is a student here at NECC.

"I've never gotten into his music, but I see him as a smart guy who uses his image well. It's valuable for him because of the way that the music industry is leaning towards the pop culture" stated Jason Sirois, also a student at NECC.

I have always liked Manson and always have thought he is a musical genius. Also, I have seen him in concert and it had to be one of the best shows I have ever attended.

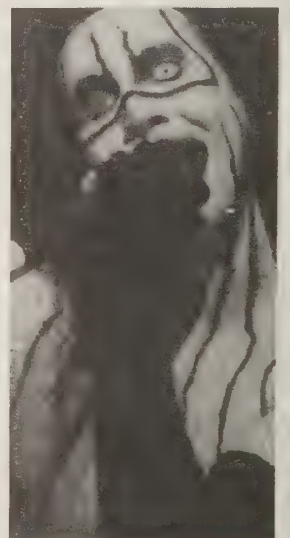
But after I saw "Bowling for Columbine" I really realized how intelligent he is and how he is so down to earth.

“
I'm a poster boy for fear because I represent what everyone is afraid of.

— Manson

For anyone who has never seen "Bowling for Columbine," you need to check this documentary out. After watching it, I don't think I'll ever view our government the same.

Manson said the two bi-products in this country are fear and consumption. If we are betrayed and they keep us afraid, then we will consume, and I think about that one phrase that he said all the time, because if you think about it in that light, it makes a lot of sense, because it goes on every day of our lives.



wire photo

Marilyn Manson shocking his audience...again.

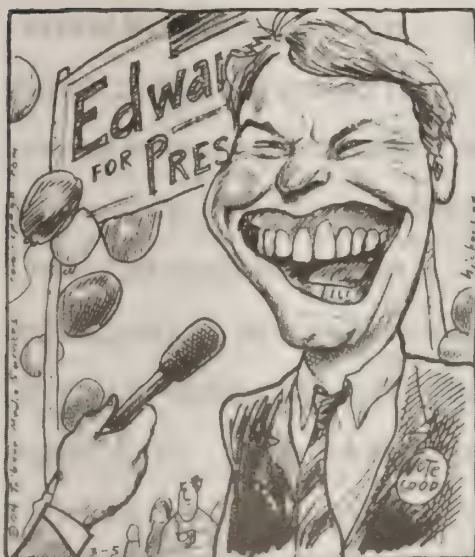
Arts & Entertainment

The Quigmans By Buddy Hickerson

KRT



Latest Olympic Event:
Freestyle Conclusion Jumping



"Senator Edwards, do you realize that many voters fear that if you win the nomination, your smile might actually pop your face?"

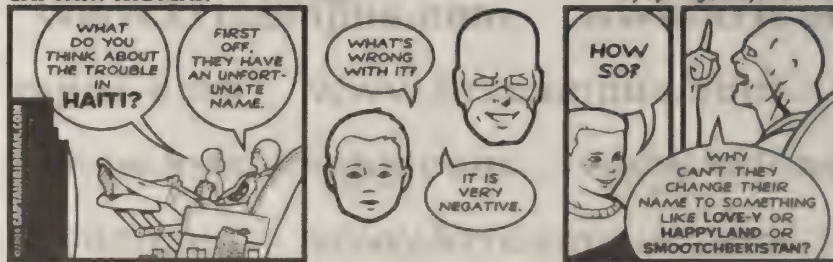


"I proclaim you 'Man's Best Friend!' This entitles you to sleep in a box and eat meat by-products!"



CAPTAIN RIBMAN = Hate the Hate

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis

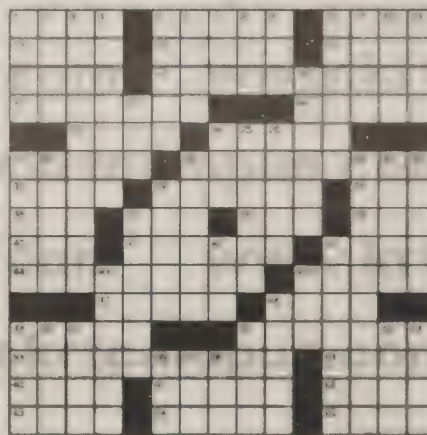


Crossword Puzzle

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Comic Sandbar
 - Alloled portion
 - Lots and lots
 - Singer Michael
 - Run-down dwelling
 - SSS classification
 - Piano pests
 - Wiped out
 - Checks, as a noise
 - Make amends
 - Horseshoe procession
 - Trumpet blast
 - Slightly daffy
 - Busch Gardens employee
 - Buffalo's lake
 - Municipal bosses
 - Danya River
 - Infant
 - Zing
 - Boke's stats
 - Russomire's TV husband
 - Born in the
 - "Can Wait"
 - Point after
 - deals, perhaps
 - "High Noon" theme singer
 - Paddock youngster
 - Attacks
 - Paddock parent
 - Wetside tune
 - Supporter of a New York team
 - Like some prayers
 - Add to the staff
 - Preming's son
 - Machina film
 - Egyptian deity
 - "Diana" singer
 - Slanted surface
 - Some dogs

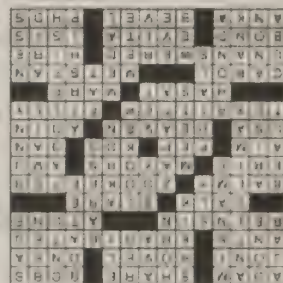
- DOWN
- Green slightly
 - Fully-coupled
 - Disappointing outcome
 - Identify wrongly
 - The role for Valentino
 - Rhino feature
 - Gardner of "The



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03/08/04

Solutions



- one
- Beach Boys hit
 - Overweight
 - Badge of honor
 - Gastro's restaurant
 - In due time
 - Standing
 - Distributors
 - Bone-dry
 - Loch of legend
 - Network
 - Night before
 - '80s Rms. 'Wu'

Caffeine... your friend or foe?

By DUSTIN GRAY
Style Editor



Did you know the most commonly used drug in the country could be coursing through your veins at this very moment?

That's right ladies and gentlemen, caffeine is a drug and it's in that cup of coffee or tea you enjoy every morning. Not to worry though, it does serve as the most socially

acceptable drug as well.

There is an online forum called serendip.com headed up by a variety of professionals, ranging from neurologists to computer scientists and college professors.

In a piece about caffeine addiction they said, "Caffeine acts directly on the central nervous system as a mild stimulant." Once ingested, caffeine takes only a minute to spread throughout the entire body.

So have no fear of it's effectiveness, (and as many coffee drinkers will tell you), it really does the trick. As with any drug, you're going to be dealing with side effects. The ones

attributed to a normal serving of caffeine are definitely not life threatening. The major side effects of caffeine usage include increased blood pressure as well as an increase in neural activity.

The biggest complication to be expected though is one most caffeine drinkers use the drug for in the first place, that being the inability to sleep. In fact, the quality of a person's sleep can be decreased while caffeine is still effecting the body. The brain spends less time in the rapid eye movement, ore REM stage of sleep. REM is the deepest and most important portion of an adults sleep pattern.

Nevertheless, coffee drinkers worldwide have good reasons to indulge in the morning perk. For some, it's used to wake up, for others, to remain mentally alert.

However, most coffee drinkers will argue t the most addictive aspect of coffee is the taste.

Think about it, there's not many beverages out there you can customize as much as a cup of tea or coffee. Cream, sugar, both or just black, it's up to the individual.

This is what makes caffeinated beverages

so desirable.

The truth of the matter is caffeine is addictive. It does not, however act so much as an intense physical addiction, but more as a psychological dependence with almost no harmful

effects on the body. Caffeine is also one of the easiest habits to kick. So as long as you're not drinking twenty cups a day, everything will be fine.



Dustin Gray photo

Assorted varieties of caffeinated beverages.

Personal Trainer

Caffeine and exercise

Many people use caffeine, a mild drug that stimulates the central nervous system, as a pick-me-up; a look at its use in exercise:

Does it help performance?

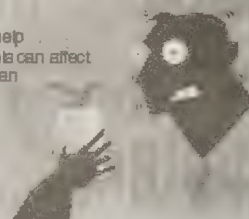
May give brief energy boost or help concentration, but only high levels can affect performance, and large doses can cause one or more of these:

- Sleeplessness
- Anxiety
- Upset stomach
- Headache
- "Wired," agitated feeling

Side-effects

People sensitive to caffeine may experience these:

- Nausea
- Muscle tremor
- Headache
- Excessive urination, leading to dehydration if water is not replaced



A caffeine myth

Researchers used to believe caffeine made the body burn fat for energy more efficiently. Later research overturned that theory; caffeine affects your brain, not your metabolism.

Drink a couple of large espressos within 2 or 3 hours, and you may fail the International Olympic Committee's drug test for caffeine use.

www.krt.com

Here are some helpful facts about caffeine and possible drawbacks.

Diet or death, the skinny on anorexia

(KRT) When Laurelle Hennessy was 10, she stopped eating breakfast and lunch.

She would wait for her father to leave the room, cover the eggs he'd cooked with a paper towel and toss them into the trash.

At school, she'd give her lunch away. She vomited regularly.

When her parents found out, Hennessy was in ninth grade. By the summer before her junior year at the New World School of the Arts, she was taking in only 300 calories a day and exercising incessantly. She checked into a hospital weighing just over 70 pounds.

"I'm a very, very honest person, but that was the only thing I ever lied about," said Hennessy, now 18.

When Hennessy's disorder began, she hardly fit the profile that places anorexia (self-induced starvation) at age 14 or 15 and bulimia (gorging and vomiting) at 17 or 18. But in a country where obesity is epidemic, amid all the low-carb diets, promises and pills, Hennessy's story is becoming more and more common.

Eating disorders, once thought to be a problem of the privileged female teenager, are cutting across race, ethnicity and gender. And they're striking two ends of the age spectrum

elementary schoolchildren and adults coming to terms with their problem.

One doctor is seeing middle-aged women and the under-10 set who eschew food for fear of getting fat. Another has seen eating disorders develop among adolescent immigrants from Latin America. Yet another has formerly obese adult patients starving themselves after gastric bypass.

It's not ultimately about weight, doctors say. Instead, they place eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia on a continuum with compulsive overeating and obesity, abusing food to mask deeper issues.

"The way this country deals with food is not normal," said Dr. Rosina Pellerano, who specializes in eating disorders. "It's about using food as a vehicle to deal with stressors. And it's not going away."

If anything, it's getting worse, experts say. In recent years, Miami psychologist Dr. Paula

Levine has seen an increasing number of patients in elementary school.

Experts cite a constellation of factors: Anorexia is traditionally a disease that hits girls between child-

hood and puberty, and today's generation is reaching puberty earlier, a trend some theories link to childhood obesity, or hormones in food or the environment. And a \$40 billion diet industry means children are exposed to a blizzard of messages about weight loss.

"Everything is about doing it faster, whether it's about the first time you put your kids on a diet or the first time a kid has sex," said Levine, who heads Miami's Anorexia and Bulimia Resource Center.

"And if you tie all that into the emphasis on fashion and fitness, it doesn't take too long to realize why a 10- or 11-year-old might be as worried about her body as a 12- or 13-year-old."

Research has substantiated this link. In Fiji, incidence of eating disorders increased dramatically three years after the introduction of television, according to a study by Harvard researchers. Five times the number of girls reported vomiting to control weight, and were more likely to see themselves as too fat.

Justine Gallagher was only 5 when she grew so worried about getting fat that she started eating paper regularly.

"I really wanted to be accepted," said Gallagher, of Long Island, N.Y.,

who has since shared her story on "Oprah."

Her mother, Yvonne, took Justine to pediatrician after pediatrician. They reassured her she would catch up with her peers. One night, Gallagher caught Justine running circles in her room because she thought she'd eaten too much and took the girl to an eating disorders specialist, Dr. Ira Sacker, who heads the national group Help End Eating Disorders.

Sacker said his youngest patients often mimic how parents or older siblings struggle with weight.

Yvonne Gallagher wears a size 14, and said she often talked about dieting. And at school, said Justine, who's now 12 and in seventh grade, body image is an important part of self-esteem.

"I hear a lot of girls saying stuff about losing weight and everything. And it really upsets me, because they don't know that if they go too far they can get really sick."

Studies have shown that after seven years of treatment, about half of anorexics recover fully. A third continue to struggle. More than 10 percent die from the disease, which has the highest mortality of any mental disorder.

Kids Health Matters

The skinny on teen dieting

An obsession with body image and thinness has led some teenagers to diet dangerously. What parents should know:

Unsafe ways to take off pounds

- Results of a U.S. survey of 8th- and 10th-graders:
- Skipped meals 32%
- Fasted 22%
- Used diet pills 7%
- Induced vomiting 5%
- Used laxatives 3%

Signs that dieting is out of control

- Continues to diet, even if not overweight
- Complaints of weakness, headaches or dizziness
- Thinks about food all the time, eats in secret
- Wears baggy clothes to hide thinness
- Restricts activities because of food, exercises excessively

Unhealthy weight loss plans

- Too few calories: Plans that severely limit food intake (such as 500 calories a day)
- No fat: 20 percent to 25 percent of calories should come from fats
- Does not include a wide variety of foods

If your teen needs to lose weight, talk with a doctor

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U.S. Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics
Graphic: P. C. H. / The



www.krt.com

Style

Celebrity skin. . . 2004 Oscar style

The best night of fashion yet this year at the Oscars

By DUSTIN GRAY
Style Editor

The Oscars were more brilliant and star-studded than ever this year. And, as we all know, whenever there is an awards event, high fashion

always follows. The red carpet was full to the brim with all of this year's stars in the greatest of fashions.

Usually, I will try to find someone to rag on for their poor judgement in style. To be perfectly honest though, this year at the Oscars it just couldn't be done.

Everyone really went all out this year, wearing everything from Versace gowns to Giorgio Armani tuxedos. It's obvious a lot of work went into this show be Hollywood's stylists.

Especially in the case of

Catherine Zeta-Jones. She wore a beautiful red dress by Versace with a wavy hairstyle that was unstoppable. It's always refreshing when we see someone of her age retain such beauty and class.

One of the most dominating forces in Hollywood today is definitely Charlize Theron. She looked stunning all night in her sparkling cream colored evening gown by Tom Ford for Gucci.

Not to mention the fact she won best actress in a leading role for her part in the blockbuster motion picture "Monster."

Naomi Watts wore something of almost identical appeal but custom made by Versace. Though she was nominated for best actress in "21 Grams," Watts left empty-handed.

The male actors were dressed to impress as well for the 76th annual Oscars. Jonny Depp showed up in a brilliant Giorgio Armani suit and was accompanied by his girlfriend, Vanessa Paradis. Paradis was in vintage Chanel and she wore it superbly.

Will Ferrell performed with Jack Black in a somewhat plain suit and tie while his counter-part accordingly wore an all black suit.

One of the most beautiful faces of the evening belonged to someone we haven't really seen in the spot-



www.krt.com

Here's Oscar winner Charlize Theron looking stunning as ever.

light too much lately.

Annie Lennox not only looked great, but also went home with the Oscar for best song for the work she did on the song, "Into the West," featured in "The Lord of the Rings."

So like I said before, no matter what your expectations were for this awards show, everyone was impressed.

All we have to do now is wait another year to see what our celebrity buddies will do next...or what they won't.



www.krt.com

Annie Lennox surprised a lot of people with this beautiful dress.



www.krt.com

Jack Black and Will Ferrell perform on stage together.

Horoscopes

"KRT"

March 8-14, 2004

Aries (March 21-April 20). Sentimental attractions are highlighted. Over the next three days, watch for a steady increase in romantic proposals. Some Aries natives also may experience a fairly dramatic public disagreement between an old lover and a new friend. Stay calm. Much may depend on your ability to act as mediator or adviser. After Friday, business proposals and financial paperwork may demand completion. Remain attentive to minor legal rules and revised deadlines.

Taurus (April 21-May 20). Monday through Wednesday may be your last chance to finalize family plans or negotiate short-term romantic commitments. Watch for loved ones to introduce new home expectations or group ideas. Changed schedules and revised priorities are accented. Expect strong opinions and fast decisions. After midweek, workplace mistakes will be revealed. Pay special attention to annual records, inventory calculations or misplaced documents. Stay alert. Accuracy will prove vital.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Emotional awareness and physical vitality are changing. Over the next four days, expect deepening romantic commitments and a series of new business choices. Many Geminis will experience a powerful wave of career ambitions and com-

plex social decisions. Trust the inner voice. Positive directions will soon emerge. After midweek, watch also for close relatives to ask for added financial advice. Offer encouragement. Your expertise and guidance are needed.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Old friends or work officials may propose unique career ventures. Home-related businesses, financial partnerships and fast social changes are accented. Expect unusual meetings, joint ventures and controversial messages over the next 12 days. Thursday through Saturday, a friend or lover offers vague responses. Ask for concrete promises. At present, verbal agreements may bring renewed focus and lasting dedication to long-term relationships.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Ongoing obligations and traditional family roles may prove bothersome over the next few days. Expect loved ones to be unusually sensitive to new information, minor criticisms or last-minute changes. By next week, however, tensions will fade. Remain patient and watch for small clues. Wednesday through Saturday, minor physical ailments require special attention. Joints, bones or lower back muscles may be temporarily strained. Pamper the body and wait for change.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Romantic or social promises may be challenged. After Tuesday, watch for subtle comments to trigger important discussions. Previously

silent lovers or friends will gently test your dedication. Don't be unnerved. Powerful emotions and vital long-term decisions may be involved. Wednesday through Saturday, business officials may ask unusually probing questions. Study facts, calculations and legal documents for minor errors. Revised policies will soon be needed.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Humor, witty compliments and unusual social requests may captivate attention. Before Thursday, loved ones may feel unusually drawn to foreign cultures, educational experiences or games of chance. Use this time to expand social or intellectual activities. Restlessness and minor group tensions will soon fade. Friday through Sunday, home repairs and renovations or short-term financial investments require diplomacy. Stay focused and remain dedicated to trusted plans.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22). Intimacy between friends and romantic trust will soon deepen. After midweek, watch for a previously vague relationship to begin an active or passionate phase. Long-term love affairs will either expand or be newly defined. Expect complex family requests, bold opinions and minor social tensions. Friday through Sunday, financial restrictions are temporarily lifted. Ask loved ones for revised home plans, new payment schedules or special permissions.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21). Work and financial plans may change several times over the next few days. Expect usually predictable colleagues to be scattered or poorly organized. Graciously ignore all such vulnerability. Social politics and diplomacy may prove vital for lasting success. Friday through Sunday also highlight intense romantic dreams and powerful social insights. Someone close may reveal his or her deepest fears, needs or expectations. Offer encouragement.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20). Yesterday's disappointments will vanish. Over the next four days, expect potential lovers to no longer hesitate or show disinterest. After Wednesday, however, avoid delicate discussions with loved ones or roommates. Past social habits and emotional facts are unproductive. Friday through Sunday, a close relative may wish to renegotiate financial obligations. Remain determined. This is not the right time to bring creative solutions to short-term money problems.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19). Before midweek, older friends and relatives may express doubts or misgivings. Areas strongly affected are creative business projects, spending habits or planned social events. Avoid detailed discussions and wait for calmer attitudes. Social understanding and shared family goals will soon become reliable themes. After Saturday, romantic invitations may arrive without warning. Respond honestly. A sincere explanation of acceptable boundaries may be necessary.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20). Monday through Thursday, loved ones may carefully discuss yesterday's plans or family goals. Unexpected social alliances and changed schedules may be questioned. Past feelings, needs or group actions require a clear description, don't disappoint. Over the next few days, subtle romantic decisions are in operation.

Make your voice heard

Email your letters to:
observer@necc.mass.edu

Be sure to sign your name and include phone number for confirmation.

Sports

2004 NECC baseball season preview

With strong pitching and a solid lineup throughout, the NECC Knights are looking forward to a successful 2004 season

By JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

The NECC Knights baseball team is gearing up for a MCCAC state title defense.

Head Coach Kerry Quinlan and Assistant Coach Ray McDonald have a feeling other teams will be in for a big surprise when they face off against NECC. The team is overall excited with the product they will be putting on the field this season.

Over spring break, the team will head down to Cocoa, FL where they use the old Montreal Expos training facility. The team likes not only the facility, but the competition they are given when they are down there.

"We want to play up and get the best competition so when we come back here we're ready," said Quinlan.

"(We're) looking forward to playing down in Florida and playing some different teams," said Matt Maguire, first year pitcher and second basemen. The team likes the opportunity they get in Florida to play some Div. 1 and Div. 2 teams

that they would otherwise never see.

Both coaches feel this is the best group of players they've had since they have been at NECC. With a very strong pitching staff and solid depth at every position, it gives them several options and is huge with all the scheduled doubleheaders the Knights will play.

"If we play a doubleheader, that isn't legitimately the starting team," said Quinlan. "It's the team that we feel should be on the field at that time."

Quinlan compared putting a lineup on the field to a chess game. In the case of a doubleheader, the left side of the infield will be bolstered if they are facing a team with a lot of pull hitters. If they are facing a team with a lot of lefties, it will be the opposite. A luxury they didn't have last year when they ended up being down to 13 players.

"We've played competitively, but have kind of been short on being able to close the door on games," said McDonald. "We're defiantly not short this year. We've got every piece of the puzzle to get the job done."

"We don't really have any starters. I can put ten different lineups out there everyday," said Quinlan. "It all depends on who we feel is doing the right job."

With the team they put together, there are very high expectations. "We're looking strong up and down, much stronger than we've looked in the last couple of years," said McDonald. "We hit pretty well now all through the lineup."

"We got a lot of good players and a good pitching staff," said first year pitcher and shortstop Sean Denoit. "If we play like we can it should be a great season."

The Knights aren't letting thoughts of a repeat get them over confident. They know a tough test awaits them when they get on the



Photo courtesy of NECC web site.

Front Row L-R: Jason Olson, Ryan Corson, Matt Thurlow, Andy Russell, Roy Sargent, Sean Benoit, Richard Santana
Second Row L-R: Ryan Doherty, Matt Maguire, Billy Sinopoli, Ryan Ricci, Tom Lorette, Shane Parker
Third Row L-R: Ryan Mooradian, Jimmy Wilson, Bryan Murphy, Richard Hendgen, Adam Del Rio, Arthur Parr
Back Row: Assistant Coach Ray McDonald, Head Coach Kerry Quinlan, Assistant Coach Pat Barry
Not pictured: Francisco Baez

We're definately not short this year. We've got every piece of the puzzle to get the job done.

-Ray McDonanld

Community college baseball tougher than thought

Continued from page 1

played and beaten some of the Red Sox minor league teams. Last year, Canada was averaging 24 runs per game. NECC held them to 15 in a 15-9 loss.

"We play some serious teams when we go down there," said Quinlan. "This year it could be interesting. We really don't look at the record when we come back from there. All we know is we accomplish what we needed to do down there and were ready to play when we get back."

The team uses the old Montreal Expos training facility while away. The trip not only gives them a chance to get away and concentrate, but also gives them experience that could improve their play.

"They have an opportunity to see players outside of this region," said McDonald. "They understand 85 to 90 mph (pitching) is everyday. You get down to Florida, everybody is top notch. Everybody is there to prove a point and you got to bring your 'A' game to win. No doubt about it."

Quinlan say it also serves as a wakeup call for these players.

"They're seeing men now. They're not seeing boys. High school is hard enough. You're pitching against kids that are 16 or 17. Now

you're facing kids that are 18 to 22 and the game is so much faster," he said.

"There are a lot of NJCAA teams that could compete," added McDonald.

"If you look down to Florida at all their four year schools half of their players are from junior colleges down there," said Quinlan.

Both coaches are already looking toward next year. There are three top recruits that have already assessed and confirmed they will be at NECC for the fall.

"When the kids come out and they see how disciplined you have to be some kids just say well, you know I thought this was going to be fun," said Quinlan. "Well, we make it fun, but were adding another element to you discipline wise. It's not your rec. league. These schools take their athletics seriously."

If there is still any doubt that junior college baseball is something to look past, Quinlan and McDonald are quick to point out some interesting facts. Former Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemens and current Sox ace

Curt Schilling are products of junior colleges, along with NECC graduate Steve Bedrosian.

Bedrosian went on to an accomplished career winning the NL Cy Young Award in 1987.

Although NECC doesn't give scholarships for athletics, Quinlan points out the joint admissions program as a big reason the baseball program is strong.

"We consider this to be a farm system," he said. "We want kids to get a better education and then move them onto school. Our goal is to get them the best opportunity they have."

The school does a lot in getting the players ready to move on after their two years are up at NECC.

"I think it's important for the professors to know they play a big role in this. These kids are here for an education," said assistant coach Ray McDonald. "The professors have been hugely instrumental in keeping that half of the equation squared away and working with us so that these kids don't run into problems."

There are a lot of NJCAA teams that could compete.

-Kerry Quinlan

2004 NECC Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
3/26	@ Mitchell College	4:00 PM
3/28	@ Holyoke*	12:00 PM
4/4	MANCHESTER CC*	12:00 PM
4/8	DEAN COLLEGE	4:00 PM
4/12	MASSASOIT CC	3:30 PM
4/13	@ Massasoit CC	3:30 PM
4/17	MASSBAY CC*	12:30 PM
4/18	GATEWAY CC*	12:00 PM
4/21	@ Roxbury CC	3:30 PM
4/22	ROXBURY CC	3:30 PM
4/24	@ Springfield CC*	12:00 PM
4/26	QUINSIGAMOND CC	3:00 PM
4/27	@ Quinsigamond	3:30 PM
5/1	@ Bunkerhill CC*	3:30 PM
HOME GAMES. *Denotes doubleheader		

Sports

Red Sox 2004 spring training news and notes

Red Sox 2004 spring training underway in Fort Myers

BY DEREK BEDARD
Staff Columnist



For millions of loyal residents of "Red Sox Nation", news years has rolled around with the opening of the Spring

Training season.

The Red Sox got back to in-game work on Thurs. Mar. 4 with a big win over the Minnesota Twins by the score of 5-3 thanks in part to Minor Leaguer and roster hopeful Jeremy Owens, who hit a based loaded single off of former Sox player Kevin Tolar.

Derek Lowe looked strong, going two perfect innings, while Rule V draft pick (from the Yankees no less) Colter Bean picked up the win, while Andy Dominique put the Sox ahead for good with a home run off of Joe Roa in the 9th.

As quick as they took care of the "Twinkies," it was time to hit the books by taking on the college kids. The Sox hosted Northeastern University and Boston College in games on Fri., Mar. 5 easily defeating both teams.

ALCS hero Tim Wakefield took the hill for the afternoon set against Boston College, despite Wakefield giving up two early runs. The Sox settled in, thanks again to Andy "The Dominator" Dominique, who is quickly making a case to be the #2 catcher in town by smashing a two

run home run off of Nick Asselin, who took the loss for BC.

Johnny Damon and roster hopeful Tony Womack both stole bases and scored runs in the 9-3 blowout, which was an exebition and had no bearing on the standings.

David Ortiz also contributed by driving the aforementioned Damon & Womack home in the victory.

However, it was the night game everyone had their eyes on. Curt Schilling made his long (and I mean long, try 16 years too long) awaited debut for The Sox, Curt pitched three innings and allowed only three hits out of 38 pitches thrown against the Northeastern Huskies.

Caesar Crespo, who is expected to be the 25th man on the roster-picked up a huge grand slam in the

assignment of the spring, working two scoreless innings in a no decision.

Then we had the game everybody was waiting for. The "beloved" New York Yankees arrived at City of Palms Park this past Sun. and Alex Rodriguez played his first game as a Yankee against our Sox.

Bronson Arroyo took the hill for Boston, as he tries to make a case for the fifth starter job, which he is competing with B.K. Kim for. Arroyo pitched three solid innings for Boston, giving up only one hit, which was to (oddly enough) Alex Rodriguez.

Even with a Pokey Reese home run and Kevin Millar and Bill Mueller producing RBI's off of Yankees starter Jose Contreras, it was not enough. The Yankees quickly jumped all over Red Sox roster hopefuls Jason Shiell and Ed Yarnall the combination gave up ten of the eleven earned runs the Yankees scored in this game, off season waiver pickup Mark Malaska allowed the other run of the game.

Former Red Sox first baseman Tony Clark provided the offense for the "Empire," hitting two home runs, one off of Shiell and the other off of Yarnall, Derek Jeter and Ruben Sierra also connected home runs off of the duo during the game.

As of press time, two of the Red Sox key pitchers, Pedro Martinez, and Keith Foulke have yet to appear in a game. However, Pedro is expected to pitch in a game against the Cincinnati Reds, a game which will feature Curt Schilling's first official start of Spring Training as well as Dave McCarty as he tries to become only the second player in modern baseball history to make his team as a hitter and pitcher.

Foulke, who is the Sox closer in 2004 is expected his spring debut tomorrow against the Baltimore Orioles.

As with any spring training, the

players that make an impact in the regular season don't make much of one during the spring session, and this year is no different. In addition to Martinez, both Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra have yet to make an impact in games.

However what you do get is a good mix of young hopefuls and old veterans looking for a crack to sit next to Manny and Nomar in the clubhouse.

This season, infielder/outfielder Terry Shumpert, catcher Andy Dominique, pitcher Bobby Jones and former Red Sox favorite Brian Daubach are all looking to lock up that final roster spot.

On the other hand, you have minor league favorites Caesar

Crespo, Anastacio Martinez and Adam Hyzdu, who are competing with the non-roster invitees for a shot on the team. However, if the Pawtucket contingent doesn't make the team, it could mean a trip to another team, if they don't clear waivers.

Remember, opening day in Fenway is on Good Friday, Apr. 9th against Toronto. Curt Schilling is expected to make his Fenway debut on Apr. 11th, also against Toronto. The Red Sox have a tough task ahead of them in 2004. However, if they can focus on the task ahead, we hopefully will be hosting the Sox in a certain parade some time in Oct.. Good luck in 2004!

Curt Schilling made his long awaited debut for the Sox.

game.

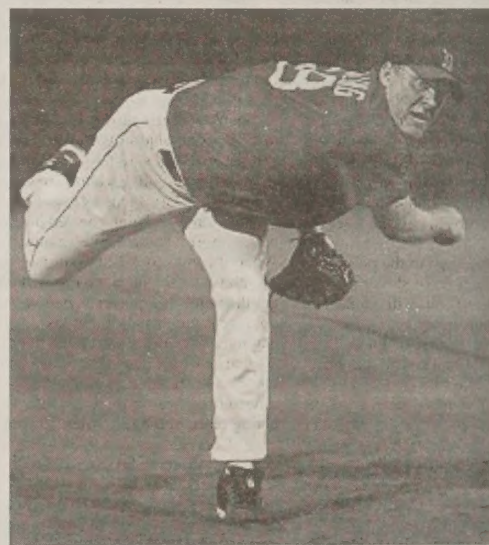
The other big story to head out of the game is David McCarty, who is an outfielder but is trying to make the team as a LHP (Left Handed Pitcher), pitched a perfect inning in relief for the Red Sox. Boston won this non-binding exebition game 7-0.

However, not every game is one fans can cheer over, as the Sox suffered a heartwrenching defeat at the hands of the Minnesota Twins 6-2.

Colter Bean took the loss for Boston by allowing 5 earned runs and giving up a walk in 2/3 of an inning.

However, David Ortiz hit his first home run of the spring off of former teammate Brad Radke.

B.K. Kim took his first pitching



Boston.com photo

Curt Schilling in his first outing as a Red Sox.

Bruins ready themselves for a Stanley Cup run

Big trade sets the Bruins on the right track

JASON JOAQUIN

The Bruins did the unexpected last week, making a trade to better themselves for a run at Lord Stanley's Cup. The Washington Capitals agreed on a deal that sent Sergei Gonchar to Boston in exchange for Shaone Morrison and two draft picks. With that, Boston is excited about its hockey team once again.

Gonchar, 29, is a big 6-1 212 pound defenseman who can double as a forward. He has good presence around the net as well as Ray Bourque, like accuracy shooting from the blue line. In his first two games as a Bruin, Gonchar collected two goals along with making a nice defensive play to disrupt a breakaway against the Atlanta Thrashers.

This is the first time in awhile the Bruins have made a move like this. In fact it was becoming as unlikely as Metallica ever playing "Dyers Eve" live. Last week, both miracles took place.

With failure to do so in the past, attendance has been down as of late, even with this team winning. The fans have remained skeptical because of the past penny-pinching history of Jeremy Jacobs. In the last few seasons, key players like Bill Guerin, Captain Jason Allison, Byron Dafee and Kyle McLaren have left over contract squabbles.

This is the first time in awhile the Bruins have made a move like this...

Guerin even went as far as to say Jacobs didn't want a championship bad enough to play his players what they deserved. And for a long time, Guerin was right.

Gonchar, who averages about 30 minutes a game and leads NHL defensemen with 50 points was already a fan favorite. Attendance is up as well. 15,500 were on hand to catch his Bruins debut-about 2,000 above what the B's have been averag-

ing.

On Friday, the only seats left for the game against Atlanta were \$155 club seats. Usually, you could walk up minutes before the game and pick up a \$25 balcony seat. Attendance for Saturday's game ended up being full, a sign hockey is back in the public eye.

Along with Gonchar, the Bruins also got Michael Nylander from the very same Capitals for a 2006 draft pick and future considerations. Nylander, a center, has been injured most of the year. He wasted no time in his debut, accumulating four penalty minutes in the first ten minutes and assisted on Gonchar's goal. He will tentatively form a line with Sergie Samsonov and Patrice Bergeron as soon as they are healthy.

Fan response on Sports Radio WEEI has expressed excitement over the deal. Most of it being relief the Bruins didn't have to include Sergei Samsonov in the deal, as was originally planned.

So with another solid defenseman working the blue line, a reliable center, goaltending and all the offensive fire power in place, the Bruins seem to be heading in the right direction. Now, let's just see how far in that direction they can go.



Jason Joaquin photo

Sergei Gonchar (55), his new teammates...



Jason Joaquin photo

...and a packed house on hand for a hockey game.

Sports

Who do you think the steroid allegations hurt the most?

POINT

COUNTER POINT

By DAVID WILLIS
Editor

By JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

The steroid allegations hurt everyone involved in Major League Baseball, but the person it hurts worst is San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds.

Bonds has been considered one of the greatest players to have ever played the game of baseball. Many would even say he is the greatest player of all time.

He comes from a great baseball background. His late father Bobby was also an All-Star outfielder for the Giants, and his godfather is Willy Mays, also considered one of the greatest ballplayers of all-time.

At the age of 22, Bonds was starting in left field for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and by the age of 26 won his first MVP award.

His best season was in 2001 when he hit 73 home runs, breaking the record for runs in a season by three.

It has gotten to the point now where teams have stopped pitching to him and will walk him every chance they have.

He is a first-ballot hall of fame player and is feared as much as he is respected.

But that all changed when he was accused of using steroids. People have been talking about it for years, but now there is the chance there will soon be proof he used steroids. Much of his legacy is out the window.

The hall of fame will still be waiting, but even if he is not found guilty of steroid use, he will still be remembered as that guy who was great but used illegal drugs.

Also, once he breaks Hank Aaron's all-time home run record, people will look back at it and say "That's great, but he only hit that many because of the roids."

But this doesn't have to be that bad for baseball, they just need to do something about it.

I agree with Dave in that the steroid allegations have hurt everyone in baseball, but it hurts the fans the most.

First off, kids look up to the game's stars as role models. Naturally, a kid will look up to the game's big names like Bonds and Jason Giambi. If a kid finds out his or her hero cheated his way to the top, this can put a bad name on baseball with future generations.

The allegations also hurt the fans of players who play the game legitimately both past and present. Fans used to root for records to be broken because they wanted to witness it.

Hank Aaron's record is going to be broken. No doubt about it. But when Bond's finally does it, should it count? It obviously will, but it will be tarnished.

Fans are also being cheated out of a more competitive game. When it comes to All-Star voting, the player with the numbers will get the vote. If a player is putting up decent numbers without taking anything illegally, they could get shafted out of a deserving spot in the game. So that player's fans miss out on seeing their favorites taking place in the festivities.

I'll admit as a fan I enjoyed watching Mark McGwire break Roger Maris' single season record. I'm not saying McGwire was taking anything illegally, but now I'm not so sure I want to see the records broken by these players. When Bonds broke his record just a few years later, again I enjoyed it.

Until recently, I was counting down how many more homeruns he needed to pass Hank Aaron. It would be history and something we would be able to witness very soon.

If these allegations are true, I don't care about witnessing history anymore. I care about bringing credibility back to the American past time.

Bad choices made in sports

Steroids and bad decisions by the Pats in free agency

DAVID WILLIS

Bad choices are an inevitable part of life. As humans, we all make poor choices, and if we are lucky, we can go back and correct them.

But most of us are lucky our bad choices are not put out to the public for thousands of people to criticize. (Although I suppose as a writer I do that).

That is not the case however for San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds, who was accused last week of using anabolic steroids by his former trainer.

Now, this came as little surprise to sports fans, which had seen Bonds go from a 165 lb rookie contact hitter to a 245 lb slugger who will soon break the all-time Major League home run record.

Bonds was always a great hitter, his father Bobby was also an all-star outfielder. But he went from a hitter who used his speed to get on base to a player who can now basically hit a home run any time he wants.

He isn't the only player who was accused either. The nutritional supplement company BALCO has also named the New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and right fielder Gary Sheffield, which is currently under federal investigation for steroid distribution.

Also named was Kansas City Royals catcher Benito Santiago.

With the possible exception of Santiago, none of these names are a

surprise. Like Bonds, Sheffield and Giambi also ballooned from thin players to hulking power hitters. They also have all been plagued with small nagging injuries, which is a sign of steroid use.

There is no proof any of them used the pills, but BALCO claims to have proof they all purchased them.

No one is surprised of this. Heck, I did a TV production project which was calling Giambi a steroid user. But it still saddens me and most other baseball fans.

Baseball is the national pastime. It is the great American game which has been around for more than 100 years. But now so many of its records must be looked at with suspicion.

It is only a matter of time until Bonds passes two of baseball's greatest players, Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron and becomes the all-time home run king. Anyone who has ever seen the slim Aaron knows he never took steroids, he just had a sweet swing. The Babe couldn't have used steroids, because they weren't around in his time, and he barely had a muscle on him.

But now when Bonds breaks the record, there will always be an asterisk. Even if he is never found to have used steroids, people will always connect him with the drug. Not to mention he already owns the single season home run record.

If their four players are using them, how many others are? Every player is now either big or ripped will be suspected of "juicing."

It is a shame that the accomplishments of players must be taken into question just because a few took the easy way out.

And why would you want to take

steroids? Have they even read the side effects? Not a lot of fun!

Speaking of bad choices, how about some of the decisions the Patriots have already made.

I know, who am I to criticize Bill Belichick, the all-knowing head coach of the New England Patriots. The man with four Super Bowl rings.

Maybe no one, but check out who has already left.

Gone to the Oakland Raiders is defensive tackle Ted Washington. He may have only made 40 tackles this past year, but the 375 lb pluggger reeked havoc on the interior offensive line of opposing teams and held up two blockers so well the Pats may as well have been playing with 12 players.

Also gone is offensive guard Damien Woody. It was sad to see the dominant offensive guard go as a free agent with nothing in return. I know it would have been hard to fin him in under the salary cap, but it isn't every day a team gets a player as dominant as Woody.

The Patriots will hopefully find players to replace those who have left. But maybe it is because I played the line in high school and coach the offensive and defensive line. But I worry if Belichick doesn't get how important the really good lineman are.

Also on the subject of bad decisions, the San Francisco 49ers released All-Pro quarterback Jeff Garcia.

I would also like to give a sad farewell to John Henry Williams, the son of Ted Williams who died Sunday at 35. He made so poor choices, but respect this poor man and don't make a joke of his death. No one deserves to die so young.

Boston Sports Update

Red Sox: The Sox have opened camp in Fort Myers and have already gotten some games under their belts. They opened up the spring campaign with a 5-3 win over the Minnesota Twins, swept a doubleheader against North Eastern and Boston College Friday and lost to the Twins and Yankees over the weekend. Bronson Arroyo got the start Sunday and had a strong outing facing the minimum.

Bruins: The Bruins are playing excellent hockey and things are looking good at the Fleet. The Bruins acquired Sergei Gonchar and Michael Nylander from the Washington Capitals in hopes of making a deep run in the Playoffs. Attendance has been up over the last four games as the Bruins sit fifth in the conference five points behind the Tampa Bay Lightning as of Mar. 8.

Celtics: The Celts had a five game winning steak going into play Mar. 9. This matches their longest of the year when they won five in a row in Dec. The streak has allowed the Green to back into the seventh seed in the eastern conference as of Mar. 8. Although making the playoffs is a goal of any team coming into camp, Danny Ainge has admitted he'd rather have the higher draft pick than make the playoffs.

Patriots: After the Super Bowl victory the Patriots have suffered some losses. Ted Washington was lured away by the Oakland Raiders as was Damien Woody who is now a Detroit Lion. Kevin Faulk has signed an extension and talks are going on with Ty Law about restructuring his deal. Antowain Smith's contract was not renewed, so speculation about trading up in the draft to get a decent running back has begun. The Patriots currently hold two first round picks (21, 32) that could be used to move up.

Boston Sports Trivia

Question: When is the last time the Red Sox won the American League East Pennant.

Last Week's Answer: Danny Ainge played for the Blue Jays from 1979 to 1981.

More pictures from 'Scantly Clad'



Dustin Gray photo

From left, Erika Gooding, Amanda Conte and Gina Elise do a dance move during the performance on Saturday.



Dustin Gray photo

Host Sean Gaff addresses the crowd in excited fashion while Conte dances behind him. Gaff was the only male in the performance.

See story: page 11



Dustin Gray photo

Danielle Parker leaves the stage to mingle in the crowd. She manages to find her boy friend and give him a little affection.



Dustin Gray photo

Gooding sings the song titled "Class" and displays a rose. She is nicely accompanied by Gaff on the piano and vocals.